それでも町は廻っている

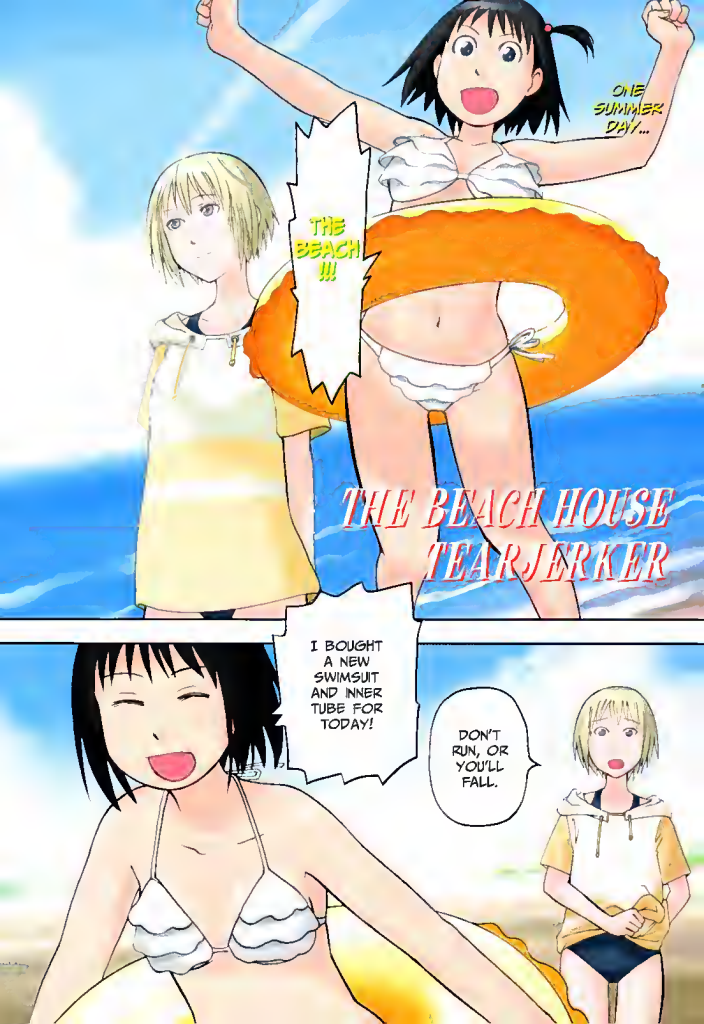
通称"それ町"

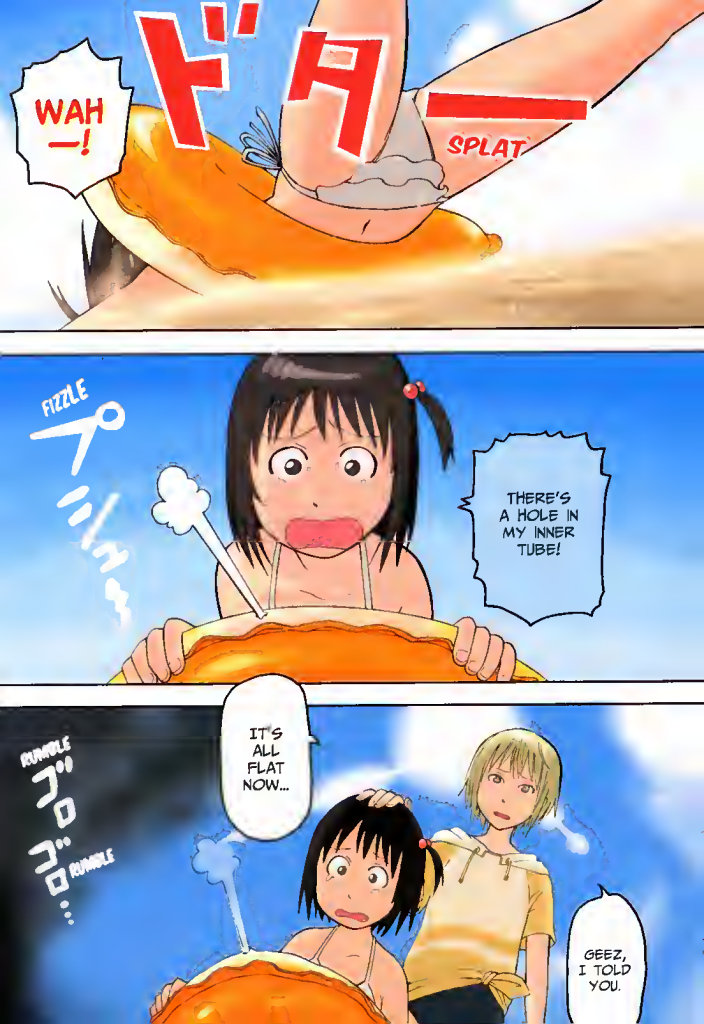
Sorede mo Machi ha Mawatteiru

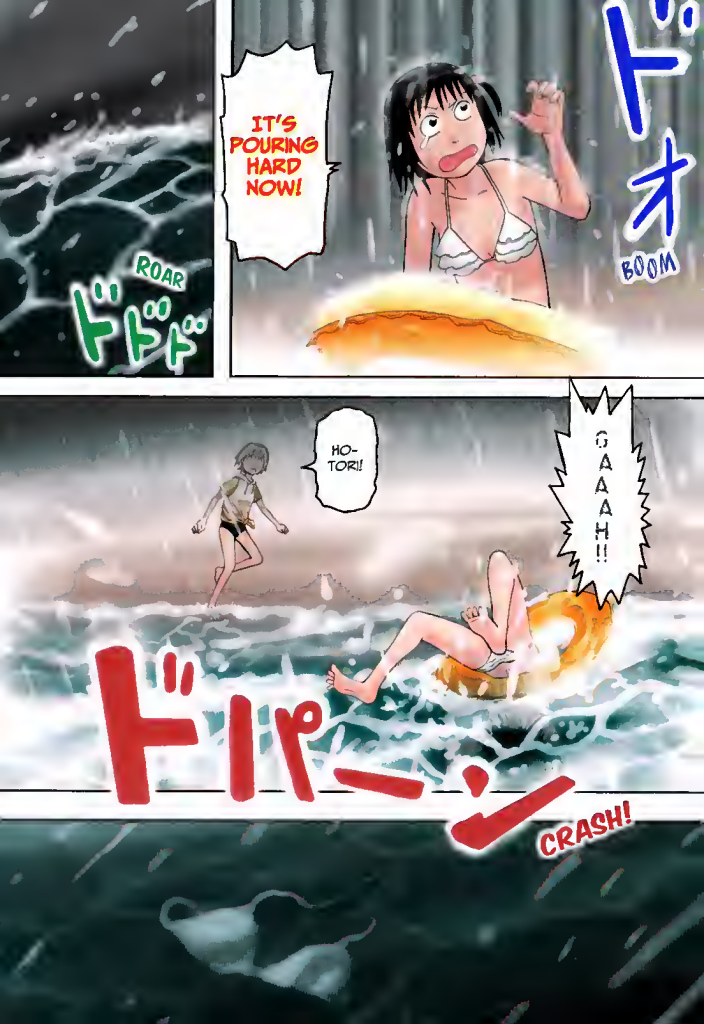
石黒正数

Ishiguro Masakazu

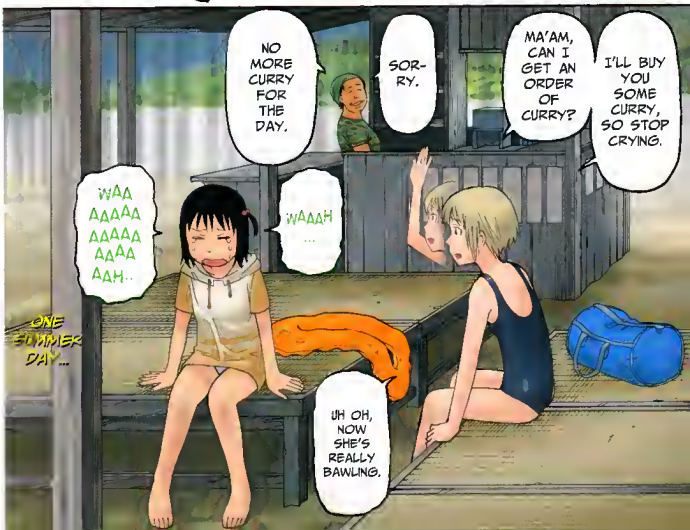
YOUNG KING COMICS


ONE SUMMER DAY...
THE BEACH !!!
THE BEACH HOUSE TEARJERKER
I BOUGHT A NEW SWIMSUIT AND INNER TUBE FOR TODAY!
DON'T RUN, OR YOU'LL FALL.


WAH ー!
ドタ ー
SPLAT
FIZZLE プシュー
THERE'S A HOLE IN MY INNER TUBE!
RUMBLE ゴロゴロ… RUMBLE
IT'S ALL FLAT NOW...
GEEZ, I TOLD YOU.


ROAR
ドドド
IT'S POURING HARD NOW!
ドオ
BOOM
HO-TOR!!
GAAAH!!
ドパーン
CRASH!

MY NEW SWIM-SUIT!!!
WAIT, EVERY HUMAN GIRL SHOULD COVER HERSELF!
A GIRL IN HIGH SCHOOL SHOULD COVER HERSELF FIRST!


ONE SUMMER DAY...
WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH..
WAAAH...
NO MORE CURRY FOR THE DAY.
SOR-RY.
MA'AM, CAN I GET AN ORDER OF CURRY?
I'LL BUY YOU SOME CURRY, SO STOP CRYING.
UH OH, NOW SHE'S REALLY BAWLING.

YOUNG KING COMICS

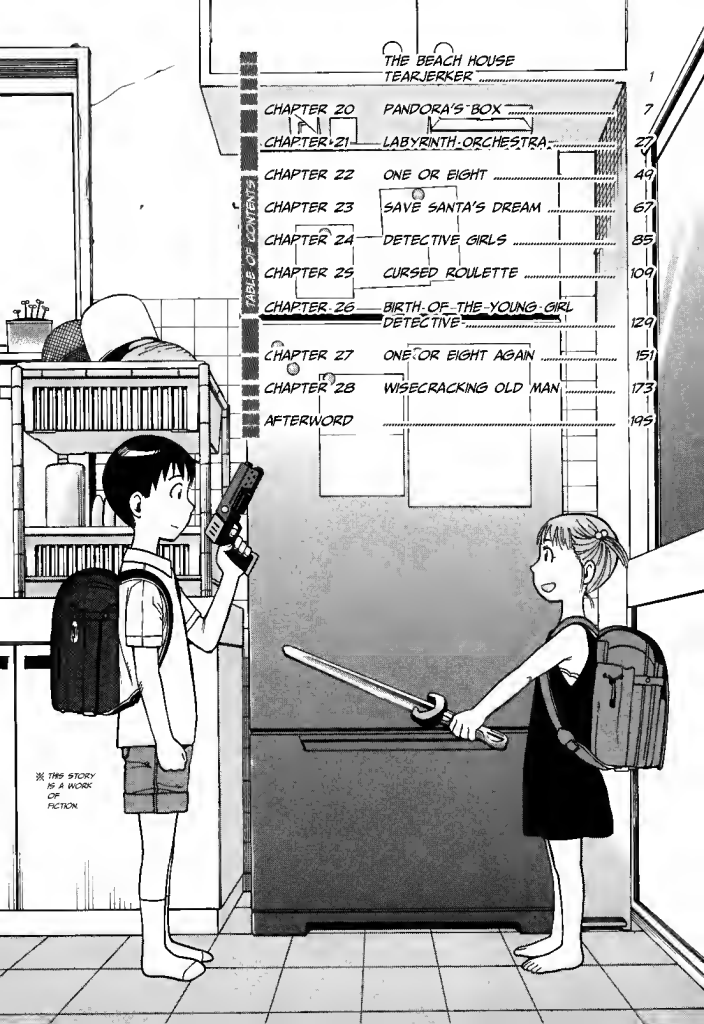
通称"それ町"

それでも町は廻っている

AND YET, THE TOWN MOVES

3

石黒正数
ISHIGURO MASAKAZU



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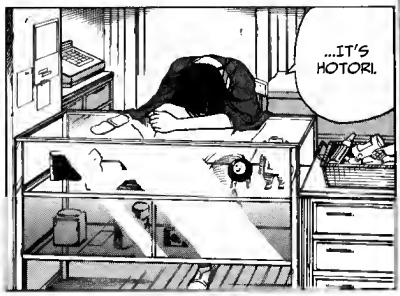
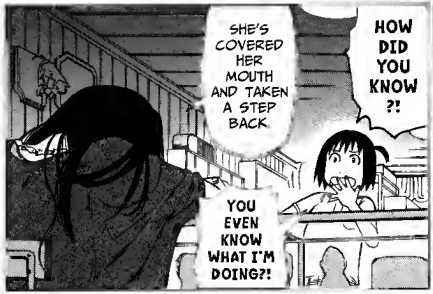
※ THIS STORY IS A WORK OF FICTION.

CHAPTER 20
PANDORA'S BOX

SIGN: KAMEIDOU ANTIQUES (WE BUY AND SELL)


...IT'S HOTORI.

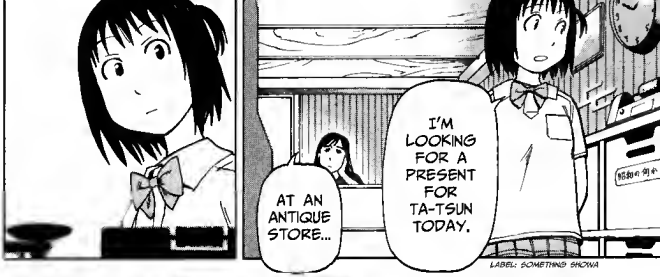

SHE'S COVERED HER MOUTH AND TAKEN A STEP BACK.
HOW DID YOU KNOW ?!
YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M DOING?!

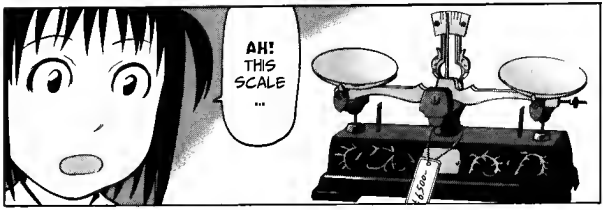
HUH?

WHEN DID YOU GET A NEW POWER?!

MY GUARDIAN SPIRIT TELLS ME EVERY-THING.

JUST KIDDING ...
THE MIR-ROR!
AH.
≫WHIM-PER≪ ...!
YOU CAN'T BECOME MY ASSISTANT IF YOU'RE FALLING FOR SUCH SIMPLE TRICKS.


I'M LOOKING FOR A PRESENT FOR TA-TSUN TODAY.
AT AN ANTIQUE STORE...
LABEL: SOMETHING SHOWA

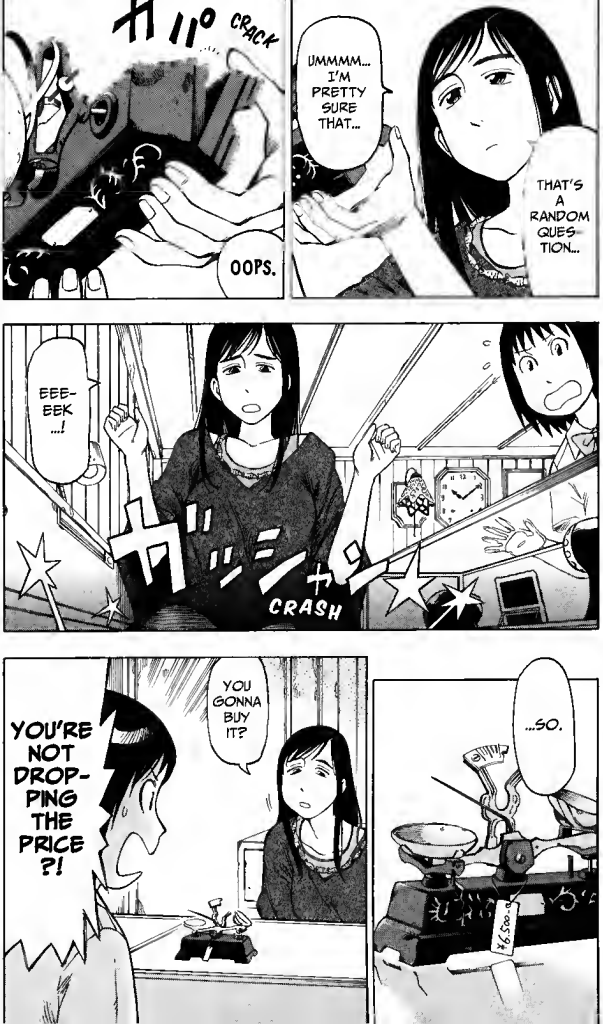

AH! THIS SCALE ...

¥6,500—
BUT IT'S EXPEN-SIVE.

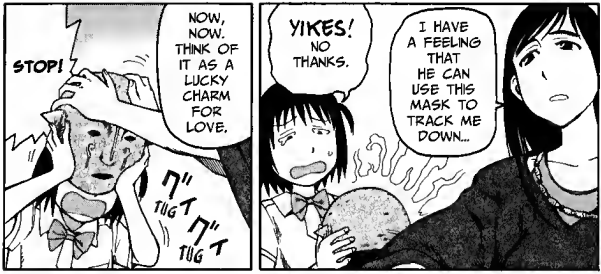
ROUSEY #85

SHIZUKA-SAN, IS THIS SOME-THING FANCY?

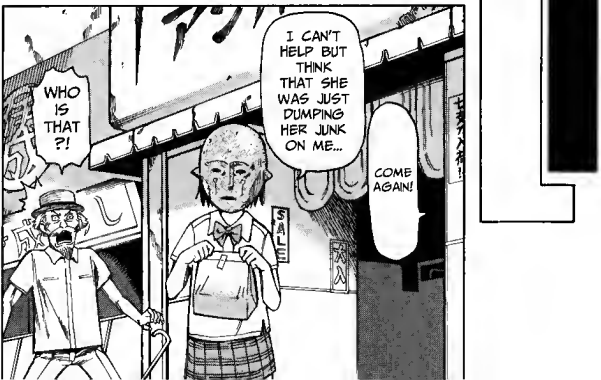
THIS WOULD BE THE IDEAL AMOUNT OF SUGAR FOR THAT PARTICULAR BLEND.
MIGHT WORK...


CRACK
OOPS.
UMMMM... I'M PRETTY SURE THAT...
THAT'S A RANDOM QUES-TION...
EEE-EEK ...!
CRASH
YOU'RE NOT DROP-PING THE PRICE ?!
YOU GONNA BUY IT?
...SO.
¥6,500

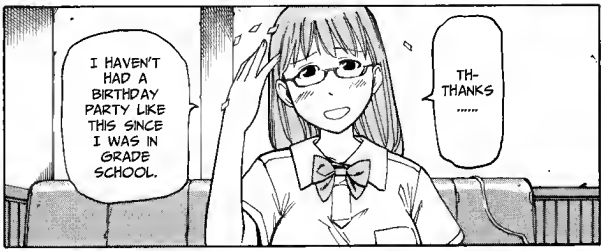
YAY! I'M SO HAPPY!!
I HAVE A SOUVENIR FOR YOU.
OH, THAT EXPLAINS THE FUNNY CLOTHES...
THAT REMINDS ME. CHANGING THE SUBJECT, I JUST CAME BACK FROM AFRICA.
THERE WAS THIS WEALTHY MAN WHO TRIED TO FORCE ME TO MARRY HIM.
SEE ...
AND HE GAVE ME THIS MASK, WHICH WAS ONE OF HIS FAMILY TREASURES.
THOSE ALL MEAN THE SAME THING.
WHAT IS THIS THING?! EW! GROSS! YUCK!!

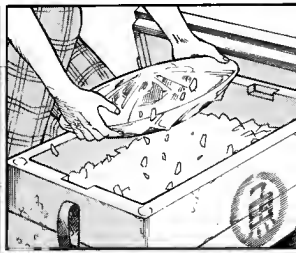

STOP!
NOW, NOW. THINK OF IT AS A LUCKY CHARM FOR LOVE.
TUG
TUG
YIKES! NO THANKS.
I HAVE A FEELING THAT HE CAN USE THIS MASK TO TRACK ME DOWN...

A VERY ROMAAANTIC PRESENT.
HER NAME IS "TA-TSUN."
I THOUGHT OF A GOOD PRESENT FOR TA-CHAN.
..OH.


WHO IS THAT?!
I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT SHE WAS JUST DUMPING HER JUNK ON ME...
COME AGAIN!
SALE

SIGN RESERVED





CRATE: FISH

THANK YOU! I'LL TREASURE THIS FOREVER!!
UH... YOU SHOULD EAT IT BEFORE IT SPOILS...
ALLITERATION MUCH?
I WASN'T EXPECTING COMPLAINTS ABOUT HOW IT SOUNDED.
THIS IS...
A SANADA SALMON SALAD ...
I BOUGHT THE CAKE. YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL.
TH-THANKS.
UH, WE ALSO HAVE A BASKET OF VEGETABLES FROM THE GROCER, TWO VOUCHERS FROM THE DRY CLEANERS, AND A VARIETY OF BOTTLED BEVERAGES FROM THE DOLLAR STORE.
目録

SUSHI: ARAI DRY CLEANING

PAMPHLET: PROGRAM

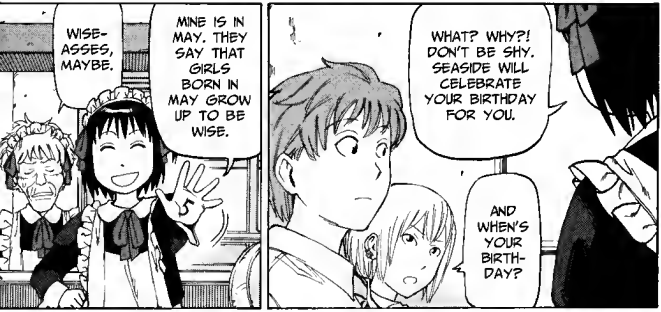
K-KEEP TRYING ...
YOU ARE A HORRIBLE HOSTESS.
ISN'T THE MAIN EVENT TATSUNO'S BIRTHDAY PARTY?
WE JUST GOT STARTED.
SINCE THE PARTY'S OVER, LET'S MOVE ONTO THE MAIN EVENT—
THE BOX LOOKS OLD...
THIS PRESENT IS FROM ME.
カタ RATTLE
コト CLATTER
?..... WHAT'S INSIDE?

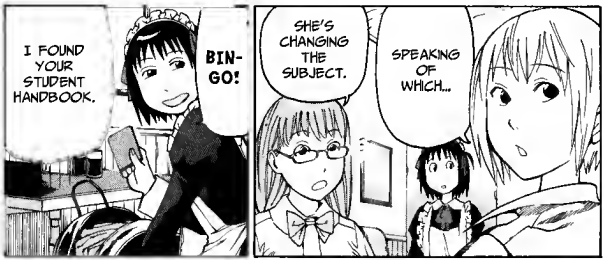
I KNOW! I'LL OPEN THIS BOX IN TWO DAYS, ON MY BIRTHDAY.
UNFORTUNATELY, IT ISN'T MEANT TO BE, TA-TSUN-TSUN.
WHAT?
I DON'T HAVE THE KEY.
KAMEIDOU ANTIQUES SAID THAT THE BOX DIDN'T COME WITH A KEY.
WHAAAAT?
"THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SO ROMANTIC."
WHAT?! NO WAY. THAT'D BE CREEPY!!
"YOU CAN SPEND THOSE LONG AUTUMN NIGHTS WONDERING WHAT MIGHT BE INSIDE."
(I WAS TOLD THAT THIS WOULD SEAL THE DEAL.)

IT'S NOT LIKE THIS PLACE EVER HAS ANY CUSTOMERS.
LET'S HAVE ANOTHER BIRTHDAY PARTY.
WHEW— THAT WAS FUN.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, GRAN?
USELESS.
FEBRUARY...
APRIL.
SANADA? WHEN'S YOUR BIRTHDAY?

I'LL PASS...
SEN-PAI?


WISE-ASSES, MAYBE.
MINE IS IN MAY. THEY SAY THAT GIRLS BORN IN MAY GROW UP TO BE WISE.
WHAT? WHY?! DON'T BE SHY. SEASIDE WILL CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY FOR YOU.
AND WHEN'S YOUR BIRTH-DAY?



PAPER: THIS DOCUMENT PROVES THAT THE PERSON BELOW IS A STUDENT AT OUR SCHOOL. STAMP. OYA HIGH SCHOOL

TODAY.
SEP-
TEMBER
8TH.
SILENCE

SO THAT'S WHY... SHE DIDN'T WANT TO TELL US...
DO SOME-THING ABOUT THIS.
...COM-PLETELY RUINED
THE MOOD'S BEEN
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT.
RUSTLE
カサカサ
RUSTLE
SNUFFLE
のろ
SNUFFLE
のろ

...YOU...
HAPPY BIRTH-DAY TO...
HA... HA... HA—

H-HOO-RAAAAY...!
POP

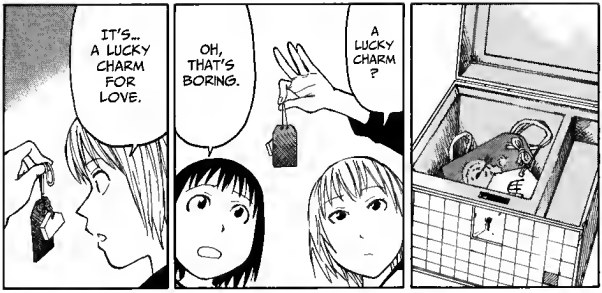
...TO THIS PAN-DORA'S BOX.
HUH? I WOULD HAVE PRE-FERRED THAT...

I DON'T WANT YOUR SYM-PATHY!!
I KNOW! A PRESENT! I'LL RUN DOWN TO THE CANDY STORE!

...IS THIS LUCKY CHARM FOR LOVE...
BUT THE ONLY OTHER PRES-ENT I HAVE...

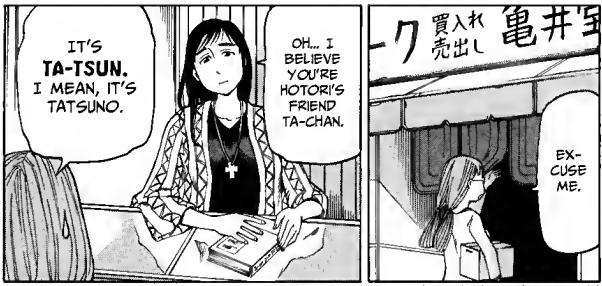
YOU NEED TO FIX THE PROBLEM AT HAND FIRST.
THAT SHOULD FIX MY PRESENT PROBLEM.
AH... THEN...
GIVE THE ROMANTIC BOX TO KON-SENPAI...
AND THE LUCKY CHARM TO TATSUN...
I'LL REMEMBER YOUR BIRTHDAY NOW!
SENPAI, WE'LL THROW YOU A REAL PARTY NEXT YEAR.
DON'T MAKE IT SOUND LIKE I'M SOME KIND OF WEIRDO!!
SAID KON FUTABA TO THE CAKE: "NEIN, I ALREADY ATE." (KON FUTABA BORN ON 9/8)
EVERYBODY WILL REMEMBER YOUR BIRTHDAY NOW.

CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
河井荘
BUILDING: KAWAI APARTMENTS
SEVERAL DAYS LATER—
YOU COULDN'T CATCH ME IF I WERE OLD AND TIRED.
AND I COULD CATCH YOU.
WHAT?! WOW!! YOU COULD BE A SUPER THIEF!!
YEP! IT'S OPEN.
カチャ CLICK
コチョ CLICK
WHAT'S INSIDE THE BOX?
WELL ...


IT'S... A LUCKY CHARM FOR LOVE.
OH, THAT'S BORING.
A LUCKY CHARM?

PANDORA'S BOX HAS BEEN REDUCED TO AN OLD PIECE OF JUNK.
FEELS SO DUMB AFTER YOU OPEN IT...
SO THIS PRESENT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE USEFUL FOR TATSUNO?

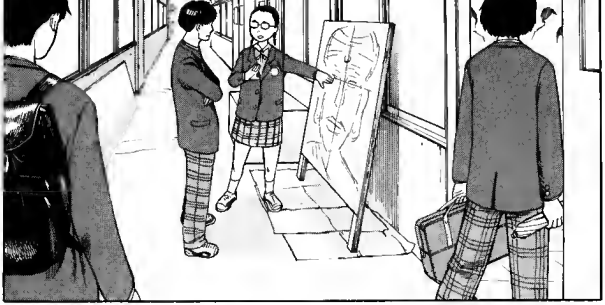
I DON'T NEED SOME RICH GUY FROM AFRICA TO FALL IN LOVE WITH ME!
HOW CAN YOU CALL THIS A LUCKY CHARM?!
ズン STOMP
ズン STOMP

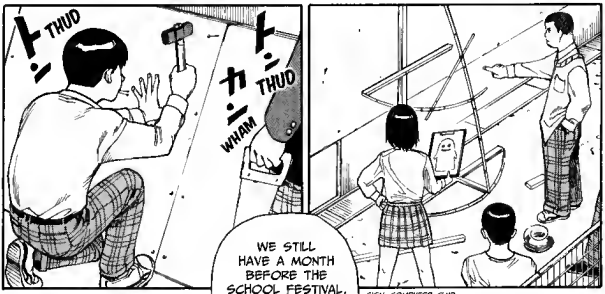


SIGN: KAMEIDOU ANTIQUES (WE BUY AND SELL)

CHAPTER 20 / END

CHAPTER 21
LABYRINTH ORCHESTRA




トン
THUD
カン
WHAM
トン
THUD
カン
WHAM
WE STILL HAVE A MONTH BEFORE THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL, BUT I CAN SEE PEOPLE WHO ARE ALREADY GETTING READY...
SIGN: COMPUTER CLUB
DEMO OF AN INDEPENDENTLY-DEVELOPED GAME

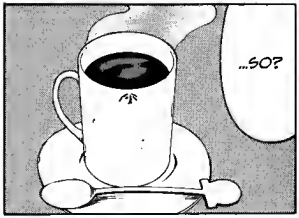
トン
THUD
カン
WHAM
カン
WHAM
カン
WHAM
電算部
主制作ゲ
場料

SOME PEOPLE DEVOTE THEIR ENTIRE YEAR TO THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
IT'S STUPID.
RE-ALLY?
OR MAYBE NOT...
OUR CLASS ISN'T DOING ANYTHING! WE SHOULD JOIN IN THE FUN!
MOST PEOPLE ARE BUSY WITH THEIR CLUBS.
THEY PROB-ABLY DON'T HAVE TIME FOR A CLASS DISPLAY.
OUR CLASS SHOULD DO SOME-THING NEXT YEAR!
YOU ONLY GET TO PARTICIPATE IN HIGH SCHOOL FESTIVALS WHILE YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL!
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE ACTUALLY MAKING SENSE.
HOW ABOUT A PLAY? I CAN WRITE A SCRIPT! I ACTUALLY HAVE THE PERFECT STORY READY.
THE JELLY ISLAND MURDER MYS-TERY.
ISN'T THAT THE ONE WHERE I GET KILLED?
OW OW OW!

I GOT A STAGE TICKET —!!
CAPTAIN!!

...OH. FIRST, BRING ME CURRY AND COFFEE.
PANT
PANT
YEAH, YEAH.

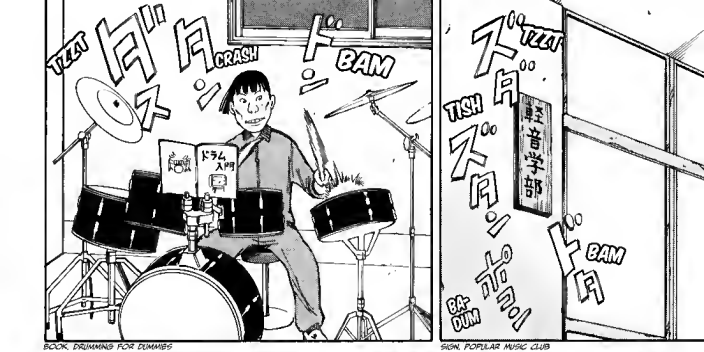
HEY.
SAY "YES," NOT "YEAH." SHE'S STILL A CUSTOMER.
YEAH, YEAH.


...SO?

KON-SENPAI, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY KNEW WHAT HOTORI MEANT.
I HAD NO IDEA WHAT SHE MEANT.
WHAT DID YOU GET? YOU'RE GOING TO BE SURROUNDED BY BARS?
STAGE, NOT CAGE, YOU IDIOT!
I GET TO USE THE OUTDOOR STAGE ON THE THIRD DAY OF THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL. I WON IT IN A DRAWING.
LET'S FORM A BAND!
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT SINGING?
I'D BE TOO EMBARRASSED TO SIIIING...
.....

I DON'T NEED TO HEAR YOU SING TO KNOW THAT YOU SUCK.
YOU'VE NEVER HEARD ME SING BEFORE!!
HUH?!
YEAH. YOU'RE TONE DEAF, ANYWAY.
HOW DOES HE KNOW?! HAS SANADA-KUN BEEN TO A KARAOKE BAR WITH HOTORI BEFORE!?
!!
AND SHE REALLY IS PRETTY BAD.
HA HA HA
NO KIDDING.
MOST PEOPLE CAN'T.
YOU GIRLS JUST NEED TO PLAY SOMETHING. I ASSUME YOU CAN PLAY GUITAR OR KEYBOARD?
I'LL HANDLE VOCALS AND BASS.

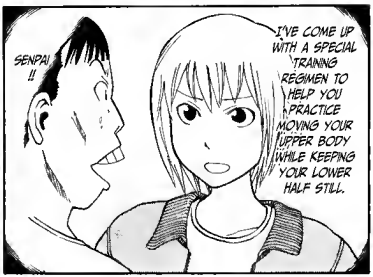
I CAN PLAY SOME-THING THAT'S NOT TOO UNLIKE A KEY-BOARD.
AHHHH!
HOTORI... DIDN'T I TEACH YOU TO PLAY SOMETHING WHEN YOU WERE IN GRADE SCHOOL ...?
REALLY ?!
YOU KNOW, I HAVE A LITTLE EXPERIENCE WITH SOMETHING NOT TOO UNLIKE A GUITAR.
!
AND I HAVE A DRUMMER IN MIND...
I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE SO EASY TO FIND MEMBERS!
HEE HEE.


TZZT
CRASH
BAM
BOOK: DRUMMING FOR DUMMIES
TZZT
TSH
BA-DUM
BAM
SIGN: POPULAR MUSIC CLUB

THAT'S WHY YOU GET TIRED TOWARDS THE END OF A MATCH.
HARIBARA, YOU'RE MOVING YOUR LEGS TOO MUCH.

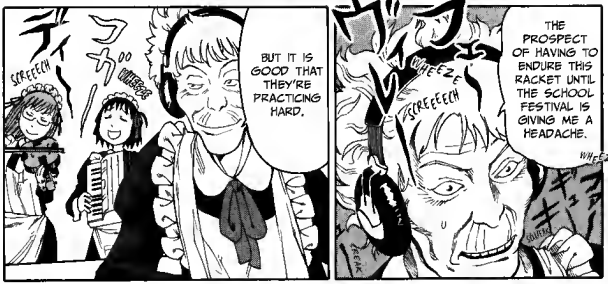
KON-SENPAI REALLY KNOWS HER STUFF!

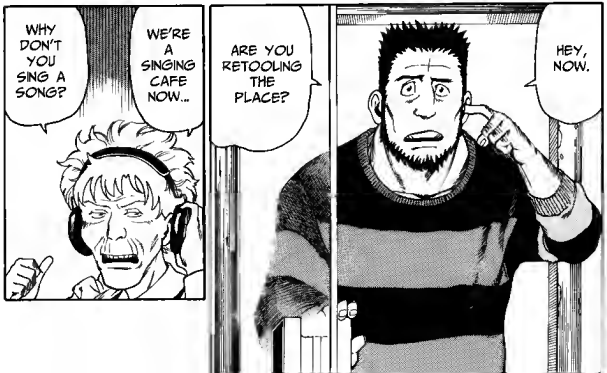
BAM
BADUM
CRASH


SENPAI!!
I'VE COME UP WITH A SPECIAL TRAINING REGIMEN TO HELP YOU PRACTICE MOVING YOUR UPPER BODY WHILE KEEPING YOUR LOWER HALF STILL.

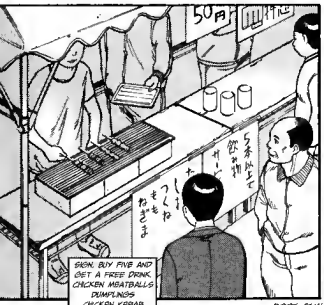
I'M WILLING TO TAKE SOME OF THE BLAME.
SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN SOME CONFIRMATION BEFORE I STARTED CELEBRATING...
BUT, HAVING SAID THAT—
I CAN ACCEPT THAT AN ACCORDION IS NOT TOO UNLIKE A KEYBOARD ...
THOUGH IT'S STILL A STRETCH.
BUT HOW IS THAT ANYTHING LIKE A GUITAR? EH?!
IT HAS STRINGS ...
IF ANYTHING WITH STRINGS CAN BE CONSIDERED A GUITAR...
HARPS, PIANOS, AND CAR LOANS WOULD ALL BE GUITARS, TOO!
WHATEVER.
I'M GRATEFUL THAT YOU'RE WILLING TO HELP OUT.
I'M PRETTY SURE THERE ARE OTHER FUNKY BANDS OUT THERE.

ディラリー
SCREEEECH
YOU SEEM TO BE ENJOYING YOURSELF, THOUGH.
フォー
WHEEZE
KON-SENPAI IS SO SELF-CEN-TERED.
SCREEEEECH
ヴィーラー
WHEEEEEZE
メイド
喫茶
SIGN: MAID CAFE

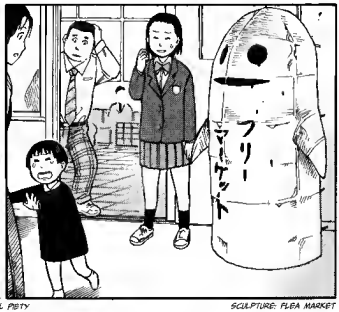

ディー
SCREEECH
フォー
WHEEZE
BUT IT IS GOOD THAT THEY'RE PRACTICING HARD.
ヴィーフ
WHEEZE
SCREEEECH
THE PROSPECT OF HAVING TO ENDURE THIS RACKET UNTIL THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL IS GIVING ME A HEADACHE.
WHEEZE
フォー
キュキュ
SQUEAK


WHY DON'T YOU SING A SONG?
WE'RE A SINGING CAFE NOW...
ARE YOU RETOOLING THE PLACE?
HEY, NOW.

ARCH. 59TH OYA HIGH SCHOOL FESTIVAL



SIGN: BUY FIVE AND GET A FREE DRINK. CHICKEN MEATBALLS DUMPLINGS CHICKEN KEBAB



BOOK: FEUAL PETY
OYA HIGH SCHOOL MANGA SOCIETY

POSTER: COMPUTER CLUB

SCULPTURE: FLEA MARKET

POSTER: MICROORGANISM HUMANS SOCIETY AMOEBA SCOOPING, SECOND COOKING ROOM

POSTER: MANGA DISPLAY

BOOK: CLAM-CHAN

JEON: A SAVORY PANCAKE-LIKE DISH FROM KOREA

TATSUNO, THE FRIED CHICKEN IS IN A TENT IN THE COURTYARD.
GYMNASTICS CLUB.
UH, SUMMER ROLLS ARE ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE NORTH BUILDING...
BOOKLET: OYA HIGH SCHOOL FESTIVAL GUIDE
UM...
HMM... I'LL ALSO NEED TO GET SOME...
LET'S BUY EVERYTHING AND HAVE LUNCH.
POSTER: ELECTRIC AIRSOFT GUN SHOOTING
I'D LIKE TO...
...WALK AROUND THE FESTIVAL...
...WITH YOU...
.....
HUH?

I REALIZE THAT I'M A SELF-CENTERED PERSON.

YOU SEE...

AND I CAN BE A LITTLE TOO SELF-CONSCIOUS AT TIMES...

家庭部

SIGNS, LEFT TO RIGHT: USED BOOK FAIR - NORTH BUILDING 3F / STUDENT COUNCIL HQ - SOUTH BUILDING 2F / STUDENT COUNCIL HQ - SOUTH BUILDING 2F / CHICKEN KEBAB / HOME EC CLUB - TRY OUR ORIGINAL RECIPES / HOME EC CLUB

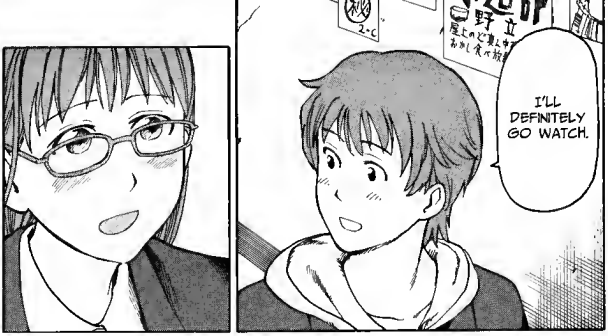
I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST ON THE VIOLIN, SOOOO... UMMM...?

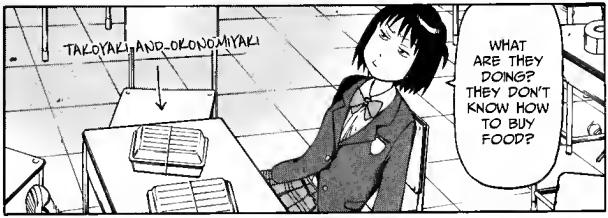
SO TOMORROW, WELL...

家庭部 創作料理 大実験試食会

BUT I TEND TO CRACK UNDER PRESSURE ...

POSTER, HOME EC CLUB - TRY OUR ORIGINAL RECIPES.

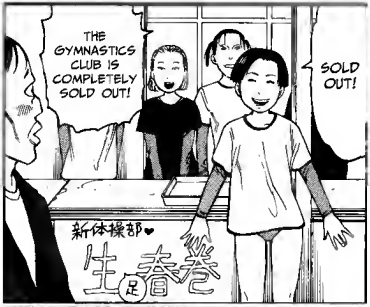




TAKOYAKI: BALLS OF FRIED BATTER WITH OCTOPUS IN THE CENTER
OKONOMIYAKI: A JAPANESE SAVORY PANCAKE DISH

ARCH 59TH OYA HIGH SCHOOL FESTIVAL
OH, GOSH. I ALL BUT TOLD HIM HOW I FEEL...
TATSUNO JOINED THE BAND TO HELP HER HANDLE PRESSURE BETTER... IMPRESSIVE! I HAVE TO WATCH THIS.
第59回学園祭
尾谷高等学校

ABOUT $2 AND $.50, RESPECTIVELY

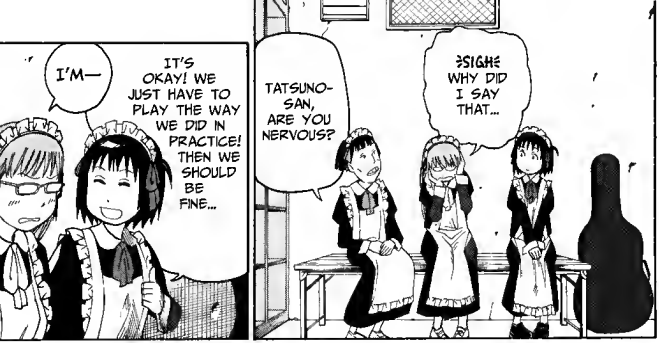


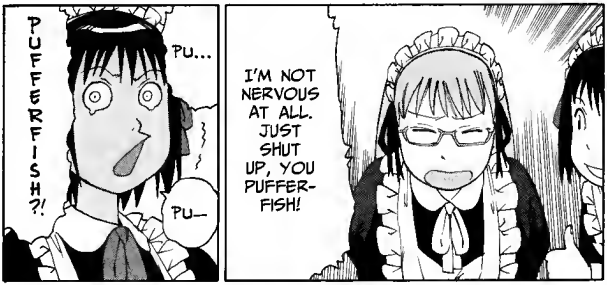
BOOTH: GYMNASTICS CLUB - SUMMER ROLLS

BOOTH: YAMMAN / JUDO CLUB'S SPECIAL BOILED YAMS - 200 YEN

SIGN: DRESSING ROOM

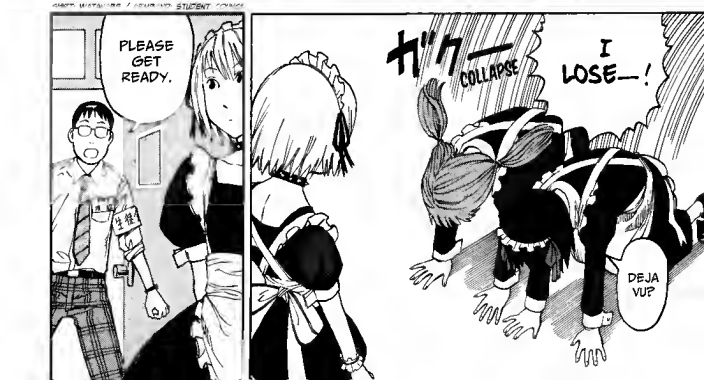
OUTDOOR STAGE GREEN ROOM - SUPERVISION BY WATANABE FROM 3-D

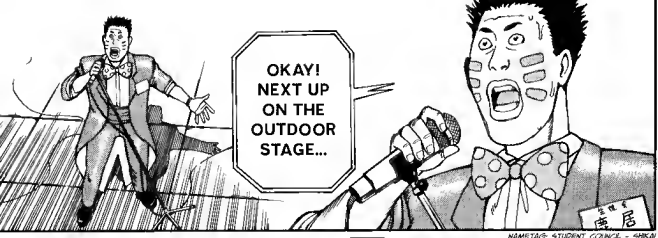

I'M—
IT'S OKAY! WE JUST HAVE TO PLAY THE WAY WE DID IN PRACTICE! THEN WE SHOULD BE FINE...
TATSUNO-SAN, ARE YOU NERVOUS?
:SIGH: WHY DID I SAY THAT...


PUFFERFISH?!
PU...
PU—
I'M NOT NERVOUS AT ALL. JUST SHUT UP, YOU PUFFER-FISH!

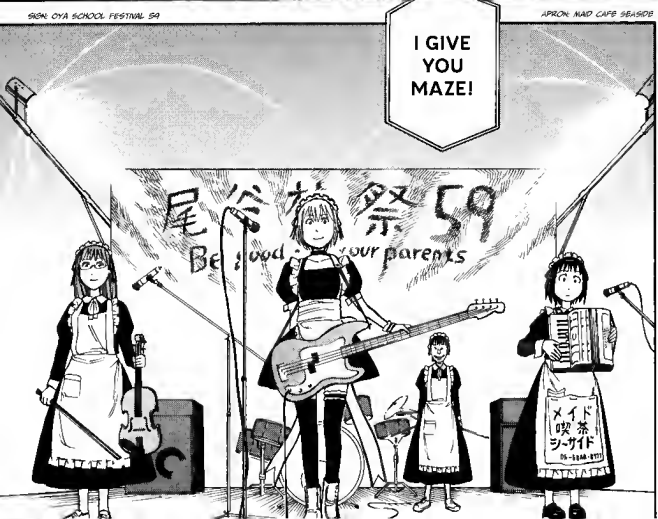
STOP FIGHTING AMONG YOUR-SELVES !!
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?!
STOP THIS! YOU REALIZE THAT I WAS TRICKED INTO PLAYING DRUMS?! SHE SAID THAT THIS WAS TRAINING!
I'VE NEVER FELT SO INSULTED!! YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THIS, YOU SNOOTY FOUR-EYES!!
SNARL
BICKER

KON-SENPAI?!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GETTING COLD FEET AT THE LAST SECOND!
SLAM
バターン
GULP!
ER...


PLEASE GET READY.
ガク
COLLAPSE
I LOSE—!
DEJA VU?


OKAY! NEXT UP ON THE OUTDOOR STAGE...
NAMETAG: STUDENT COUNCIL - SHIKAI

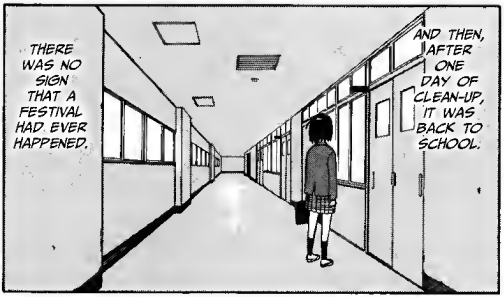
A FOUR-GIRL ROCK BAND...


SIGN: OYA SCHOOL FESTIVAL 59
APRON: MAID CAFE SEASIDE
I GIVE YOU MAZE!
尾谷祭 59
メイド喫茶シーサイド

SO THEY'RE MAZE.
THEY'RE A LITTLE LOST IN LIFE AND THEY'RE WEARING MAID OUTFITS.
DUM
DUM
RAT-A-TAT
SCREECH
SCREECH
SCREECH

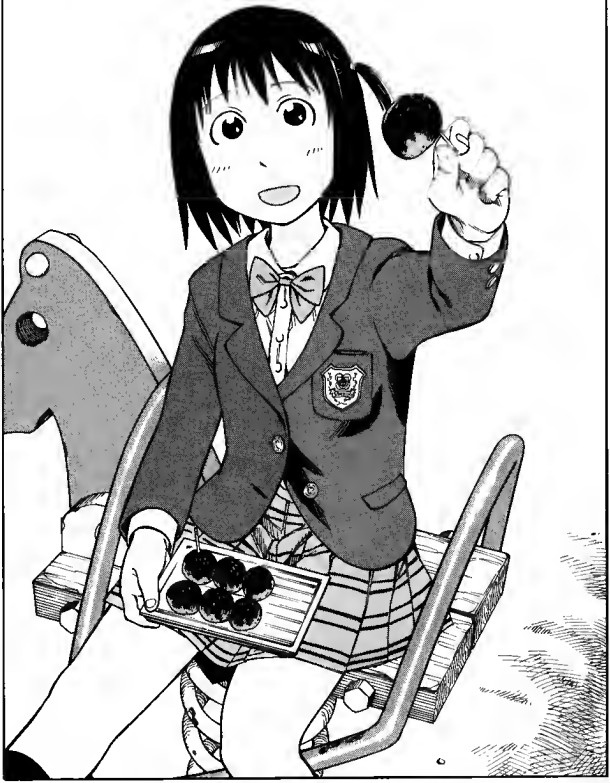
AND THIS IS THE RESULT.
I RE-CRUITED THE WRONG PEOPLE.

NO WAY?!
IT'S KON.
WHO'S THE SINGER?
THIS ISN'T ROCK.
YOU CAN'T CALL THIS ROCK.
THIS ISN'T ROCK... IT'S NOTHING...!
KONSENPAI!!
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THIS IS ROCK...
SINCE IT'S DEFINITELY CONTROVERSIAL.
WHAT DOES IT SAY ON HER APRON? SEASIDE ...
THAT BASS PLAYER'S WAY BETTER.
SHE SOUNDS KIND OF LIKE SION.
DON'T INSULT SION.
HA HA HA!



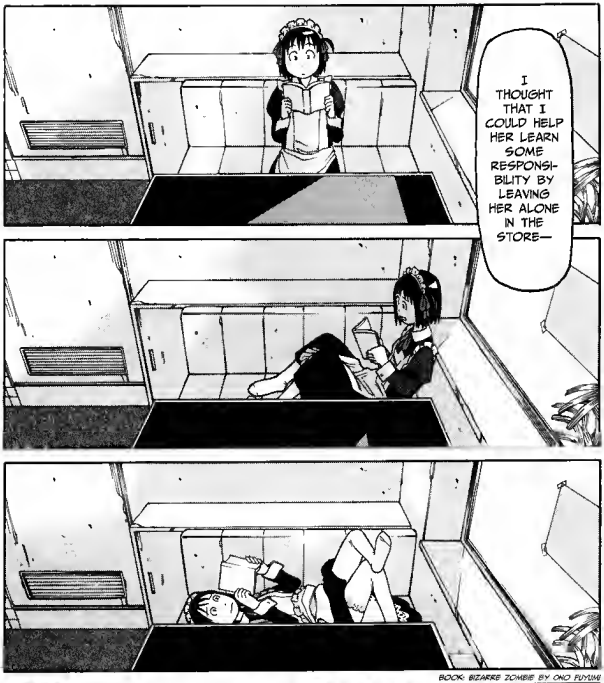
CHAPTER 21 / END

CHAPTER 22
ONE OR EIGHT



WHERE ARE WE GOING?
HMM?
THE DRY CLEANERS.
I COULD HAVE GONE BY MYSELF.
AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT LEAVING ARASHIYAMA-SAN ALL ALONE?
I'M WOR-RIED ...!!
THAT'S WHY... THAT'S WHY I LEFT HER ALONE.

IF ONLY YOU HAD SOME MODESTY.
I GET THAT A LOT.
YES.
AT LEAST YOU'RE A NICE, RESPONSIBLE GIRL, UNLIKE MOST YOUNG PEOPLE THESE DAYS.
WHO KNOWS WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO ME...
STILL, IT ONLY MAKES ME WORRY MORE WHEN I LOOK AT OTHER GIRLS HER AGE.
AHH ...
I MIGHT WIN BIG AT THE PACHINKO PARLOR AND NEVER RETURN TO THE CAFE...
WHAT?! CHIEF MAID...


I THOUGHT THAT I COULD HELP HER LEARN SOME RESPONSIBILITY BY LEAVING HER ALONE IN THE STORE—
BOOK: BIZARRE ZOMBIE BY OKO FUYUMI
THIS BOOK ...
IS SCAAAAARY ...

MOOOAN
MOAN
MOAN
I-I-I-I CAN'T READ THIS WHEN I'M ALL ALONE.
I'LL FINISH IT DURING MATH TOMOR-ROW...
SLAM

SIGH—

IT'S STILL SO EARLY ...
GRAN AND TA-TSUN WON'T BE BACK FOR ANOTHER HOUR.
AND OF COURSE, THIS IS THE ONE DAY THE LAZY BOYS DON'T SHOW UP...

COULD IT BE THAT... EVERYONE HAS BEEN TURNED INTO ZOMBIES ...?!

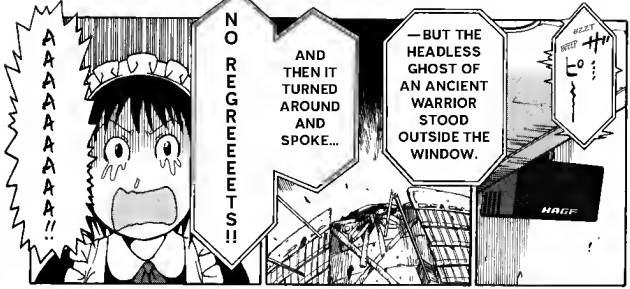
THE TOWN SEEMS QUIETER THAN USUAL...

I'LL TURN ON THE RADIO TO LIGHTEN THE MOOD.

I'M NOT SURE IF ZOMBIES ACTUALLY EXIST, BUT GRAN SURE DOES...
ZOMBIES OR GRAN... WHICH IS SCARIER?

I'M GETTING SCARED. I SHOULD CLOSE THE STORE AND GO HOME.

GACK!
GRAN TOOK THE KEY WITH HER.


AAAAAAAAA!!
NO REGREEEETS!!
AND THEN IT TURNED AROUND AND SPOKE...
—BUT THE HEADLESS GHOST OF AN ANCIENT WARRIOR STOOD OUTSIDE THE WINDOW.
BEEP
HAGE

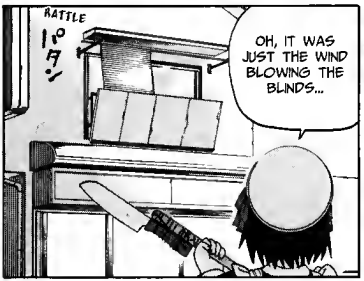
カタン
CLATTER
THAT'S SCARY!! WHY ARE THEY TELLING GHOST STORIES NOW?!
SCARY—!! HOW CAN A HEADLESS GHOST TALK?!

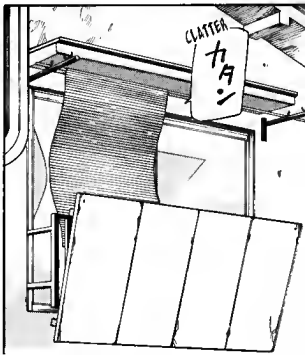
WAH! I CAN HEAR SOUNDS COMING FROM THE SECOND FLOOR!!
カタン
CLATTER
...?

DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S A ZOMBIE ...
...OR A THIEF—

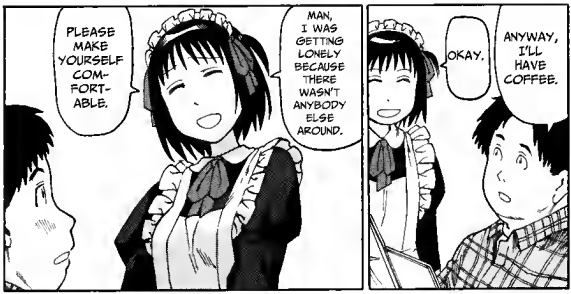
I WILL CARRY OUT HER WILL!!
カタン
CLATTER

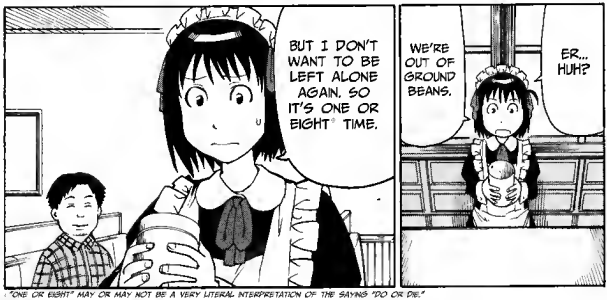
GRAN'S CREED IS TO NEVER SPARE A NON-PAYING CUSTOMER.
EQUIPMENT
STAINLESS STEEL BOWL
WOODEN CUTTING BOARD
BROOM WITH CHOPPING KNIFE BAYONET


RATTLE
パタン
OH, IT WAS JUST THE WIND BLOWING THE BLINDS...

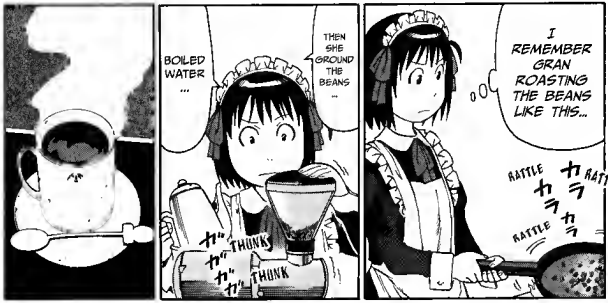

CLATTER
カタン

≫SIGH≪ GOOD GRIEF.
WHOA— A ZOMBIEF*!!
*(ZOMBIE AND THIEF MIXED TOGETHER)
WHOA— AN ARMED MAID!!
AH... ER... UM... ARE YOU A CUSTOMER?!
I'M SORRY. THERE WAS A THIEF ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
HUH? A THIEF?! IS EVERY-THING OKAY?
YES, THERE WASN'T A THIEF.
??


PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF COM-FORT-ABLE.
MAN, I WAS GETTING LONELY BECAUSE THERE WASN'T ANYBODY ELSE AROUND.
OKAY.
ANYWAY, I'LL HAVE COFFEE.



*"ONE OR EIGHT" MAY OR MAY NOT BE A VERY LITERAL INTERPRETATION OF THE SAYING "DO OR DIE."



HUH?!
SWR!
(SOUR)
SIP
ずー
HOW'S THIS?
カラカラカラカラ
RATTLE RATTLE
RATTLE RATTLE
MAYBE I DIDN'T ROAST THEM LONG ENOUGH.
WHA-AAT?
BTTR!
(BITTER)
SIP
ずー

OKAY, THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY. I'M GOING TO PERFECT MY VERY OWN ARASHIYAMA BLEND— I'LL CALL IT STORM MOUNTAIN!!
UH... I'LL BE LEAVING NOW, SO PLEASE BRING ME MY CHECK.
SINCE I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

HOTORI'S FAMILY NAME, ARASHIYAMA, LITERALLY TRANSLATES TO "STORM MOUNTAIN."

SIGN: COFFEE SEASIDE

MENU
WELL, I GUESS I CAN ORDER SOMETHING TO EAT.
YOU MEAN YOU'LL THROW YOUR WHOLE HEART INTO THIS.
I'LL THROW MY WHOLE STOMACH INTO THIS!!
AWKWARD...
THAT'S OUT OF MY JURISDICTION. IT'S A SUPER-RISKY DISH WHERE TA-TSUN DIGS AROUND THE FRIDGE AND THROWS TOGETHER SOMETHING RANDOM.
UGH!
I'LL TRY ONE "TODAY'S PASTA"...
SOUNDS EASY ENOUGH.
GRAN ONCE SAID...
HUH? YES.
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
IT'LL BE EVEN MORE OF A GAMBLE IF I'M THE ONE MAKING IT!!
I HAVE TO ADMIT.

AN EDO MAID...
...WEARS AN APRON FOR A REASON !!
...HUNGER IS THE BEST SPICE.
I'LL BE LEAVING NOW.
WORRY NOT!!
BUT I CAN TELL THAT SHE'S FIRED UP.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THAT MEANS...
CLANG
ガンガン
YOU'RE MAKING PASTA, RIGHT?
PLEASE TIME HOW LONG THE NOODLES COOK.
HOTORI TRIED HER BEST.
ME?!
WHAT IS THIS?
WHATEVER. I'LL JUST THROW IT IN.

HERE YOU ARE.
THIS IS THE SICILIAN-STYLE ROMAN-STYLE FREESTYLE PASTA, ARASHIYAMA-STYLE.

...SO WHAT STYLE IS THIS EXACTLY ...?
MUN'H
AH!! THIS TASTE —?!

IT REMINDS ME OF WHEN I USED TO COOK IN COLLEGE!!
SO IF I'M IN HIGH SCHOOL AND COOKING LIKE A COLLEGE STUDENT ...
IT DOESN'T TASTE BAD, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THERE'S NOTHING GOOD. IT JUST FILLS YOUR STOMACH.
WOULD THAT BE CONSIDERED A COMPLIMENT...?

THEY SAY THAT HUNGER IS THE BEST SPICE...
THE FOOD WAS GOOD.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
...IT MAKES THE FOOD TASTE EVEN BETTER.
BUT I THINK THAT WHEN YOU SEE SOME-ONE TRY SO HARD...
BUT HE LOOKED REALLY HAPPY.
TODAY HAD TO BE THE DAY A NEW CUSTOMER CAME
CHIEF MAID! SOME-ONE'S LEAVING THE STORE!

AH! WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?! I HAD A REALLY HARD TIME!!
WE'RE BACK.
HOW DID IT GO?
NOT BAD, HOTORI...
DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS.

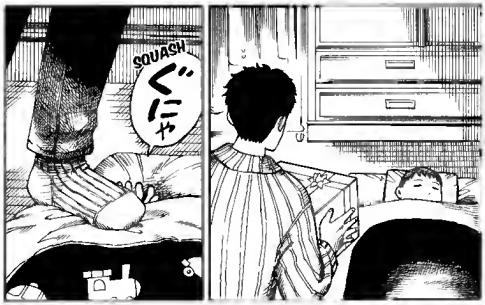
IT'S A CAFE WHERE A FAILURE OF A MAID TRIES HER BEST TO DO EVERYTHING HERSELF...
I CAME ACROSS THE PLACE YESTERDAY BY COINCIDENCE.

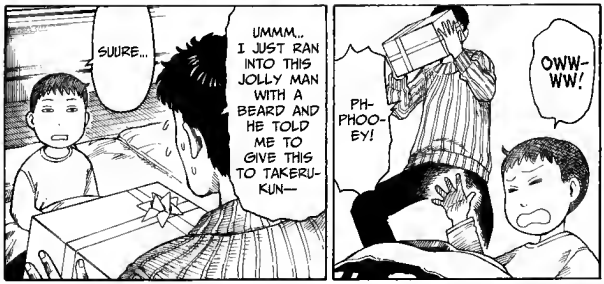
I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!!

NOW, NOW!! JUST PRETEND THAT YOU BELIEVE MY STORY!!
ARE YOU SURE YOU WEREN'T DAYDREAMING?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO RUN A BUSINESS LIKE THAT.

CHAPTER 22 / END

CHAPTER 23
SAVE THE SANTA DREAM


SQUASH
ぐにゃ
TAKERU FOUND OUT PRETTY EARLY.


SUURE...
UMMM... I JUST RAN INTO THIS JOLLY MAN WITH A BEARD AND HE TOLD ME TO GIVE THIS TO TAKERU-KUN—
PH-PHOO-EY!
OWW-WW!

WELL, SORRY I'M DUMBER THAN TAKERU...
HE'S A SHARP BOY, SO HE IM-MEDIATELY FIGURED IT OUT.
YOU'RE ... WEL-COME...
THANK YOU, DAD.

AH.
BUT... IN YUKIKO'S CASE...
SIP
ずずず
SIP
HA!
WHOA...
WHY?!
WAAHH!!
YOU'RE SO LOUD!
SHE STILL BELIEVES...
...IN SANTA CLAUS.

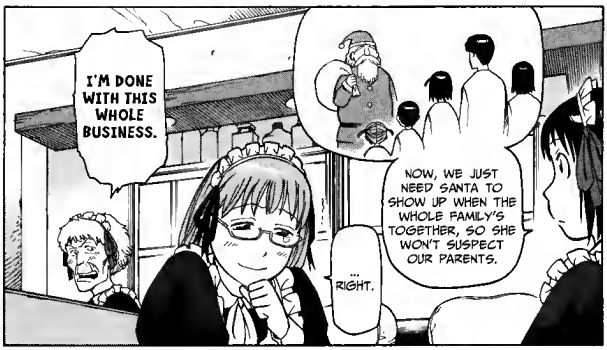
...SO, I'VE BEEN ORDERED TO RESEARCH WHAT MY SISTER WANTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS EVE TOMORROW.
I SEE.

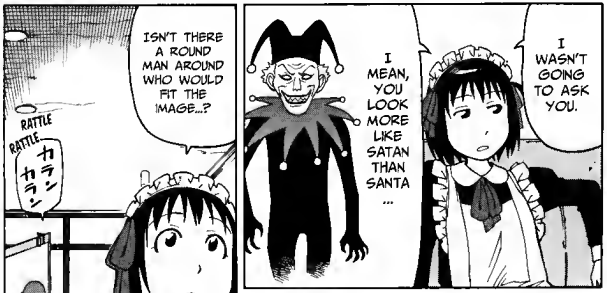
BECAUSE I FOUND MY CHRISTMAS PRESENTS...
...WHEN I STEPPED INTO THE CLOSET AND HAD MY DREAMS SHATTERED.
THAT REMINDS ME... I WAS PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK WITH MY BROTHER ...

THAT'S PRETTY LATE...
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME! I FIGURED IT OUT WHEN I WAS IN FOURTH GRADE!
ACTUALLY, I FIGURED THAT YOU STILL BELIEVED IN SANTA CLAUS.

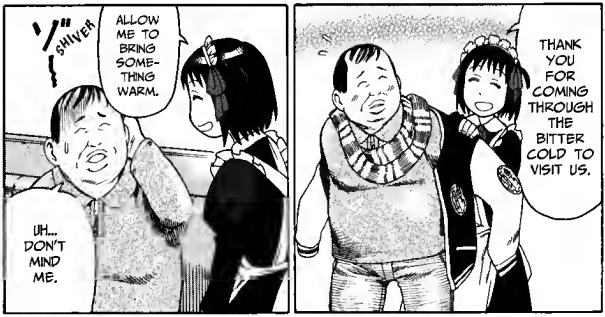
USE A CONVINCING OLD PERSON VOICE.
BEEP
RIGHT, RIGHT. I'M AN OLD PERSON.
SO GRAN, CAN YOU DO ME A FAVOR, FOR YUKIKO'S SAKE?
AH, TAKERU-KUN? THIS IS THE OLD LADY FROM THE CAFE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING RIGHT NOW? OH, WHAT A GOOD BOY!
SHEESH, NOBODY ASKED YOU TO START YAPPING LIKE AN OLD PERSON...
COULD YOU PUT YUKI-CHAN ON?
UM...
TELL HER THAT SANTA IS CALLING.
...HELLO? I-IS THIS YUKIKO-CHAN?
TH-THIS IS SANTA CLAUS. WHAT DO YOU WANT THIS YEAR?
SNORT
ウプーッ
GIGGLE
クスクス
CHORTLE
クックック

YOU OWE ME BIG FOR THIS ONE...
THANK YOU, GRAN.
I MANAGED TO GET AN ANSWER.
WHEW —


I'M DONE WITH THIS WHOLE BUSINESS.
NOW, WE JUST NEED SANTA TO SHOW UP WHEN THE WHOLE FAMILY'S TOGETHER, SO SHE WON'T SUSPECT OUR PARENTS.
... RIGHT.


ISN'T THERE A ROUND MAN AROUND WHO WOULD FIT THE IMAGE...?
RATTLE RATTLE
カラン カラン
I MEAN, YOU LOOK MORE LIKE SATAN THAN SANTA ...
I WASN'T GOING TO ASK YOU.

MAAAAN, IT'S FREEZ-ING OUT THERE.
IT'S GETTING SOOO COLD...
OH, A HEATER.
WHY, IF IT ISN'T THE NICE DRY CLEANING MAN!

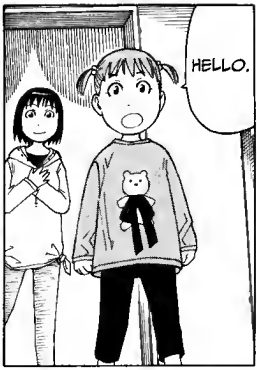

ALLOW ME TO BRING SOME-THING WARM.
SHIVER
UH... DON'T MIND ME.
THANK YOU FOR COMING THROUGH THE BITTER COLD TO VISIT US.

BASED ON MY EXPERI-ENCE WITH CAFE SEASIDE ...
...IT'S A BAD SIGN WHEN THE SERVICE HERE IS GOOD...
WITH SOME WORK, HE'LL FIT THE ROLE PER-FECTLY.
CHUCKLE

CHRISTMAS EVE
YES!
HUH?
AH!
IT'S ALL TO KEEP YUKIKO'S DREAMS ALIVE.
THERE YOU GO MAKING TROUBLE FOR OUR NEIGH-BORS AGAIN!
NOW, NOW.
..SHE MIGHT ALREADY KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT SANTA
THIS TIME NEXT YEAR..
WE'RE CONTRIBUTING TO THE MIRACLE OF BELIEVING IN SANTA CLAUS.

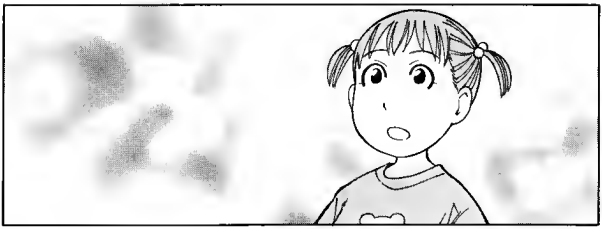
DOES SANTA CLAUS GO AROUND THE WHOLE WORLD IN ONE DAY?
HUH? ERMM... SURE.
IF HE KEEPS GOING EAST AND USES THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE, THEN...
IT MIGHT SOMEHOW WORK...
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
U-UM...
GLANCE
YUKIKO, CAN YOU ANSWER THE DOOR?
SURE.
HE'S HERE!!
GOOD EVENING...
NOK NOK NOK

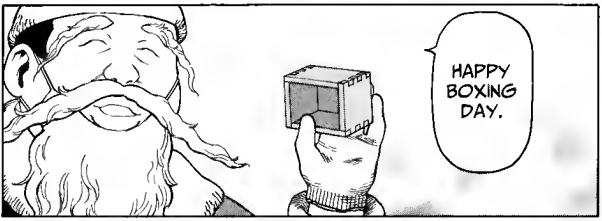
THAT'S THE WRONG HOLIDAY!
TRICK OR TREAT...


HELLO.

YUKIKO-CHAN.
X'mas SALE

HELLO ...
防火




HAPPY BOXING DAY.

DON'T NEED ANY AD-LIBBING FROM YOU!!

BUSTED.
THE DRY-CLEANING PERSON IS HERE.

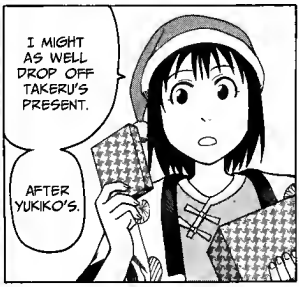
RUSTLE
サ…
WHAT DO YOU WANT, MR. DRY CLEANER?
Grow!
UH...
I'M HERE TO DELIVER THE ITEM YOU LEFT.

SLAM
ピシャッ
CLICK
ガチャリ
JUMP
ビクッ
I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU WRITE AN APOLOGY AT SEASIDE TOMORROW!!
WHAT WAS THAT BOXING DAY THING ABOUT?! HOW WOULD YUKIKO KNOW WHAT BOXING DAY IS?!

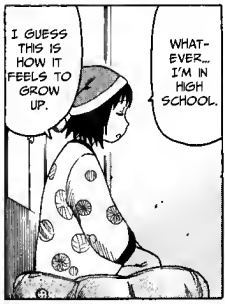
SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO GET SO MAD OVER A BOX...

THAT'S THE STAN-DARD PRAC-TICE.
SO I GUESS THIS MEANS I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE PRESENT BY HER PILLOW AFTER SHE FALLS ASLEEP.

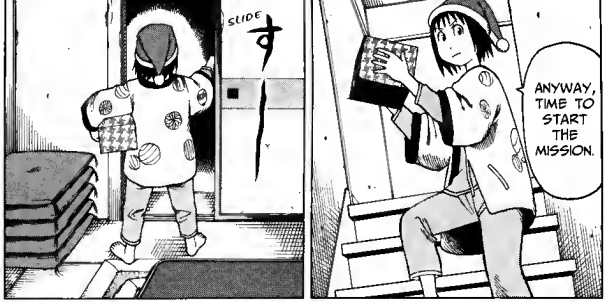
HUH —?!

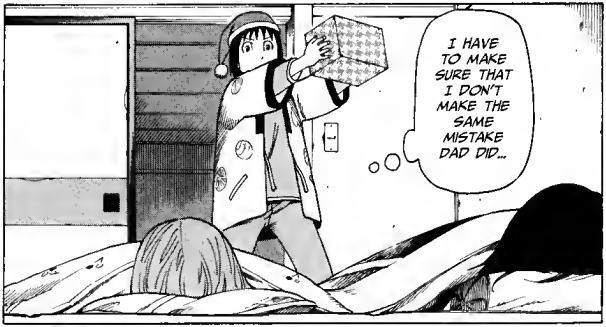

I MIGHT AS WELL DROP OFF TAKERU'S PRESENT.
AFTER YUKIKO'S.

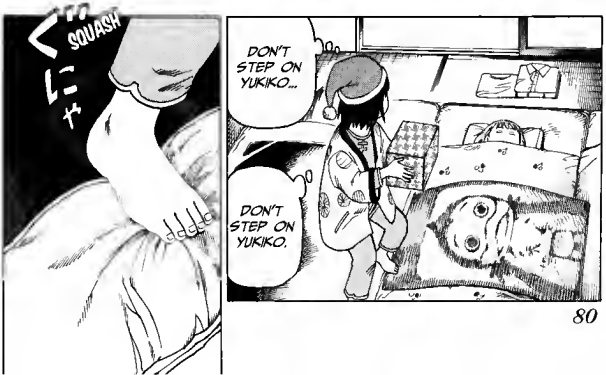
...MAYBE I CAN TALK MOM INTO GIVING ME CASH.


I GUESS THIS IS HOW IT FEELS TO GROW UP.
WHAT-EVER... I'M IN HIGH SCHOOL.

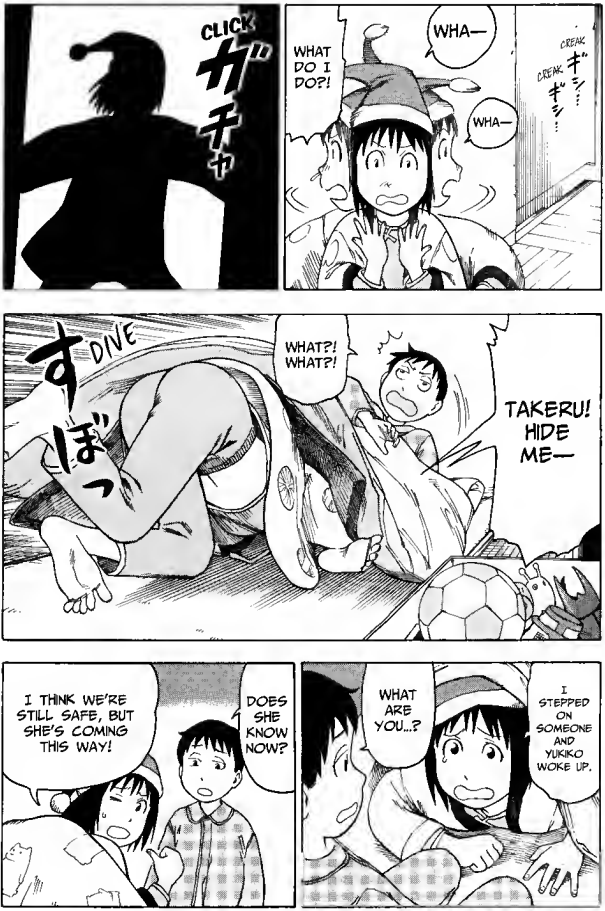
I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YUKIKO THAT I FORGOT TO ASK FOR MY OWN PRESENT ...


SLIDE
すー
ANYWAY, TIME TO START THE MISSION.

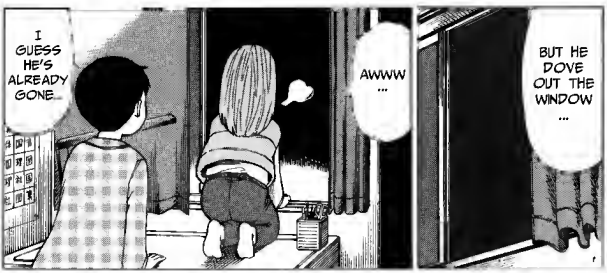

I HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT I DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE DAD DID...

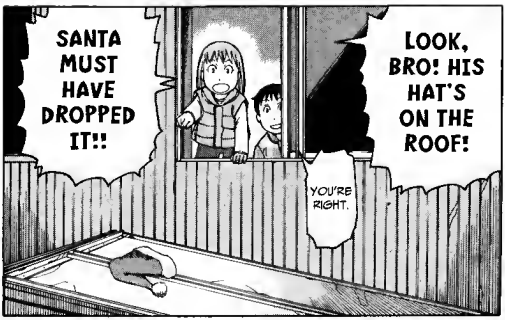

SQUASH
にゃ
DON'T STEP ON YUKIKO...
DON'T STEP ON YUKIKO.

STRETCH
I STEPPED ON MOM!
O-OOPS!
AH! OW!
WHOA— RETREAT—! RETREAT—!!
ギシ…
ギシ…
CREEK
ACK! SHE'S FOLLOWING ME?!
YUKIKO! SANTA IS BUSY, SO YOU SHOULDN'T CHASE AFTER HIM!
SAN?
...TA.


CLICK
ガチャ
WHA—
WHAT DO I DO?!
CREAK
ギシ…
CREAK
ギシ…
WHA—
DIVE
すぼっ
WHAT?! WHAT?!
TAKERU! HIDE ME—
I THINK WE'RE STILL SAFE, BUT SHE'S COMING THIS WAY!
DOES SHE KNOW NOW?
WHAT ARE YOU...?
I STEPPED ON SOMEONE AND YUKIKO WOKE UP.

CREAK
CREAK
.....
.....
CREAK
RATTLE
ガラッ
!
スポッ POP
HIDE, SIS!
O-OKAY.
FLING
ポイッ





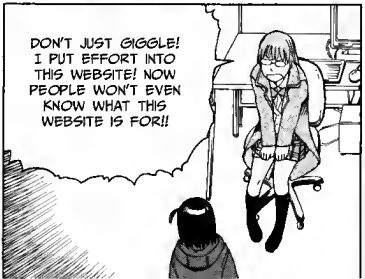
CHAPTER 23 / END

http://www5.pia1a_or_jp/okari/seaside/6336712.html
メイド喫茶シ～サイド
おかえりなさいませ
あなたは 4 6 人目のご主人様です
MAID CAFE SEASIDE WELCOME BACK YOU ARE THE 4636TH MASTER TO VISIT.
ACCEPTING REQUESTS FOR PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS!!
LOVELY MAID DETECTIVES WILL SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS!
CONTACT US HERE -> MAIL

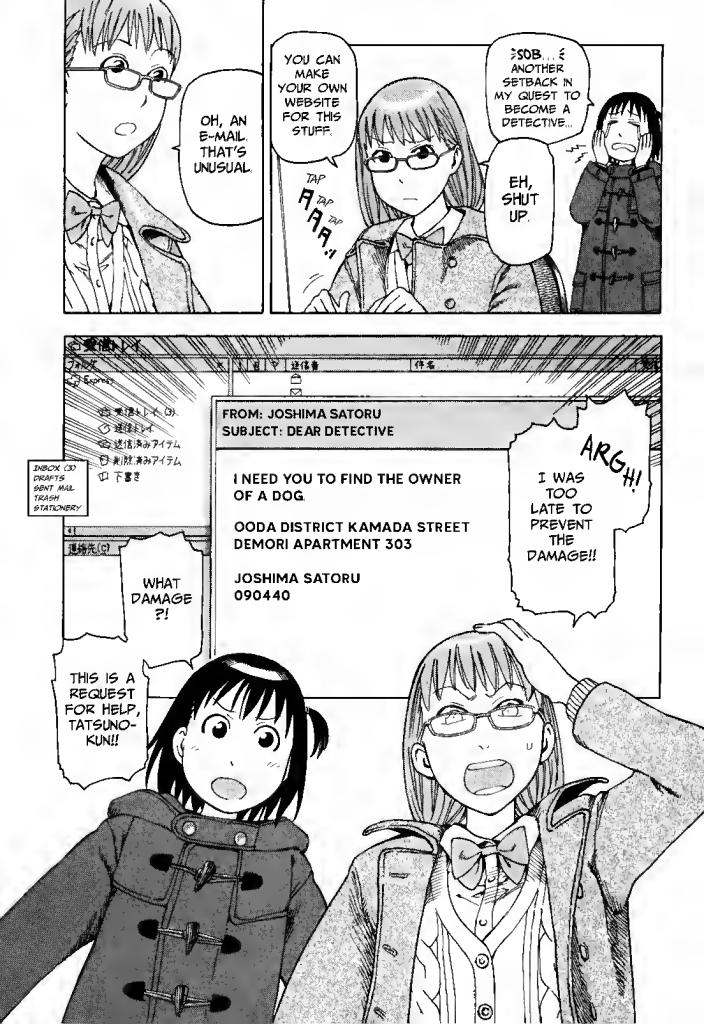
CHAPTER 24

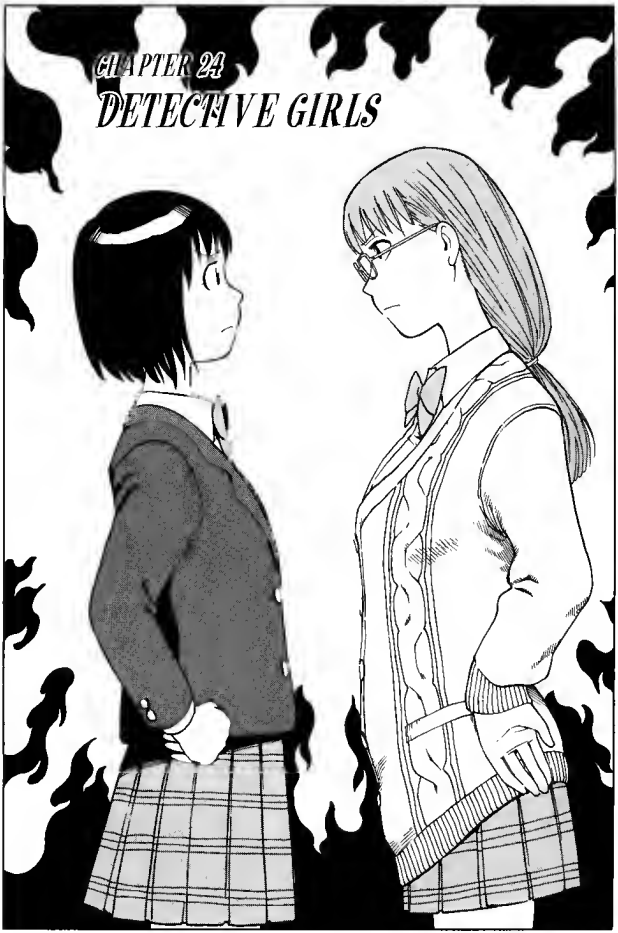
HEH HEH HEH.

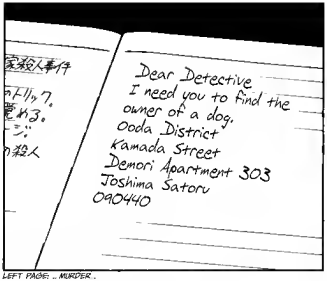
WHAT IS THIS—?!
インターネット室
INTERNET ROOM OPEN UNTIL 3 P.M.
開放中
午後3時迄


DON'T JUST GIGGLE! I PUT EFFORT INTO THIS WEBSITE! NOW PEOPLE WON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THIS WEBSITE IS FOR!!

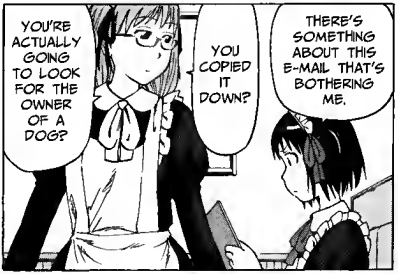
MENTAL IMAGE
SANADA SHOWED ME HOW TO DO IT.
PLUS, HOW DID YOU CHANGE THE WEBSITE WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO USE A COMPUTER?!
HEY, NEWBIE! KEEP THE FIRES BURNING!
SURE THING, BOSS!
DRIP
ボン
IMAGE OF HOTORI ADDING FUEL TO THE FIRE
SHOWW ...
AGAIN !!
NOW APOLO-GIZE!!
I'M SHOW-WY...
ギュ
SQUEEZE
OHHH-HHHH! (OWWW-WWW!)


OH, AN E-MAIL. THAT'S UNUSUAL.
YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN WEBSITE FOR THIS STUFF.
TAP TAP TAP AAA..!
EH, SHUT UP.
;SOB... ANOTHER SETBACK IN MY QUEST TO BECOME A DETECTIVE...
INBOX (3) DRAFTS SENT MAIL TRASH STATIONERY
FROM: JOSHIMA SATORU
SUBJECT: DEAR DETECTIVE
I NEED YOU TO FIND THE OWNER OF A DOG.
OODA DISTRICT KAMADA STREET DEMORI APARTMENT 303
JOSHIMA SATORU
090440
ARGH!
I WAS TOO LATE TO PREVENT THE DAMAGE!!
WHAT DAMAGE?!
THIS IS A REQUEST FOR HELP, TATSUNO-KUN!!

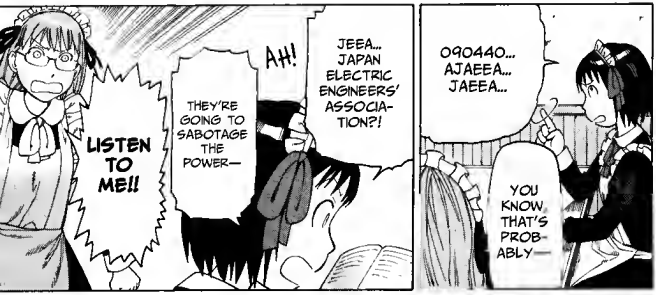

CHAPTER 24
DETECTIVE GIRLS

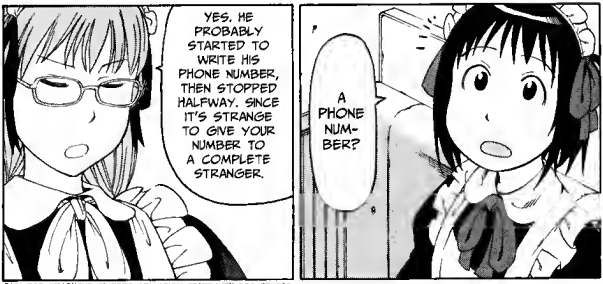


LEFT PAGE: ...MURDER...

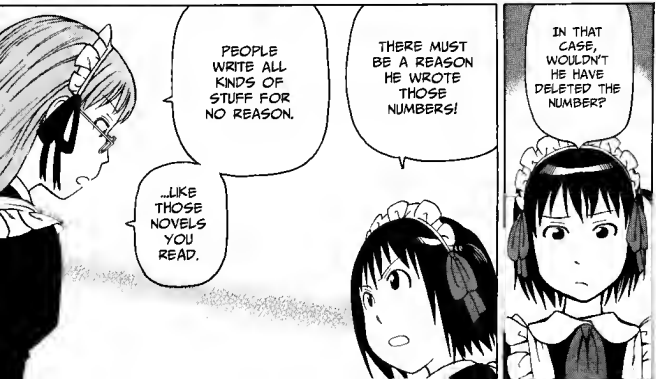

YOU'RE ACTUALLY GOING TO LOOK FOR THE OWNER OF A DOG?
YOU COPIED IT DOWN?
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS E-MAIL THAT'S BOTHERING ME.

IN ONE OF SHIMABE HIROTO'S NOVELS, THE DETECTIVE SOLVES A MYSTERY AFTER READING A SINGLE DIARY ENTRY.
THEN YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF!
BIG?
WHY?
DOESN'T THAT AMBIGUITY MAKE IT SUSPI-CIOUS...?
HUH? WELL, WE CAN'T TELL IF THIS PERSON WANTS US TO FIND THE OWNER OF A LOST DOG OR A STRAY DOG.
SOUNDS LIKE IT WAS WRITTEN BY A CHILD.
IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF CODE!
AND THERE'S THAT STRANGE NUMBER!
090440
THE TEXT IS JUST A DECOY WHILE THE NUMBER IS THE REAL MESSAGE!

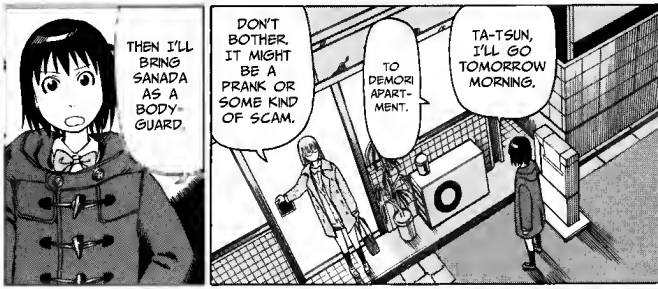



A PHONE NUM-BER?
YES. HE PROBABLY STARTED TO WRITE HIS PHONE NUMBER, THEN STOPPED HALFWAY. SINCE IT'S STRANGE TO GIVE YOUR NUMBER TO A COMPLETE STRANGER.

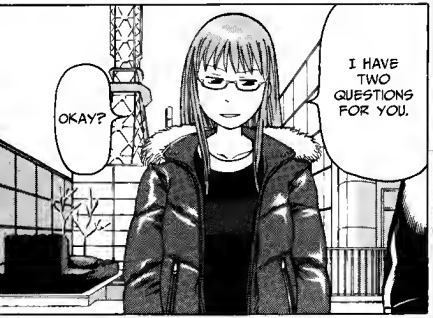
JAPANESE CELLPHONE NUMBERS COMMONLY START WITH 080 OR 090


IN THAT CASE, WOULDN'T HE HAVE DELETED THE NUMBER?
THERE MUST BE A REASON HE WROTE THOSE NUMBERS!
PEOPLE WRITE ALL KINDS OF STUFF FOR NO REASON.
...LIKE THOSE NOVELS YOU READ.

I'LL SEE YOU ON MON-DAY.
YEP, THANKS FOR THE HARD WORK THIS WEEK.
GOOD WORK, EVERY-ONE!
SIGN: SEASIDE


THEN I'LL BRING SANADA AS A BODY-GUARD.
DON'T BOTHER. IT MIGHT BE A PRANK OR SOME KIND OF SCAM.
TO DEMORI APART-MENT.
TA-TSUN, I'LL GO TOMORROW MORNING.

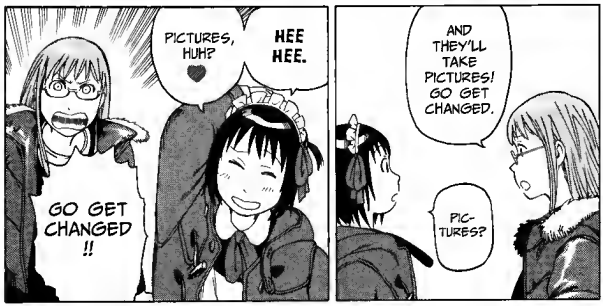
SAY... WELL...
FINE, THEN... GUESS I'M COMING WITH YOU.
...HO-TORI.



SIGNS: TOKYO EXPRESS, MARUKO STATION / HASUMODAI

SIGN: NAITOU DENTAL CLINIC

I'M WEARING MY MAID UNIFORM BECAUSE I PROMISED A MAID DETECTIVE.
IF YOU WEAR THAT OUTSIDE OF THE SHOPPING DISTRICT, PEOPLE WILL GIVE YOU FUNNY LOOKS.

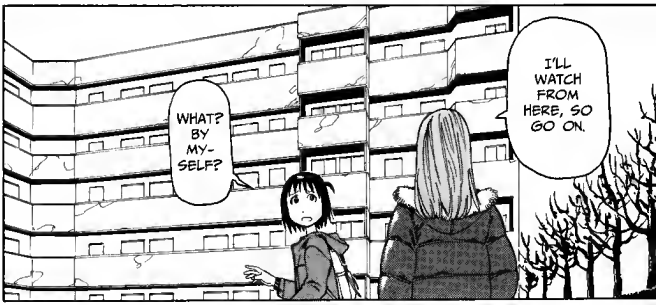

PICTURES, HUH?
HEE HEE.
GO GET CHANGED !!
AND THEY'LL TAKE PICTURES! GO GET CHANGED.
PIC-TURES?

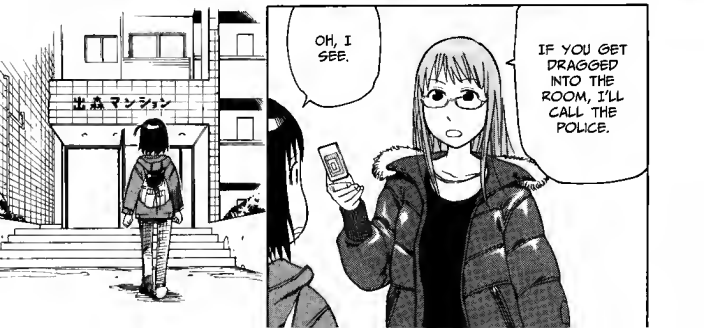
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
ガラ
ガラ
ガラ

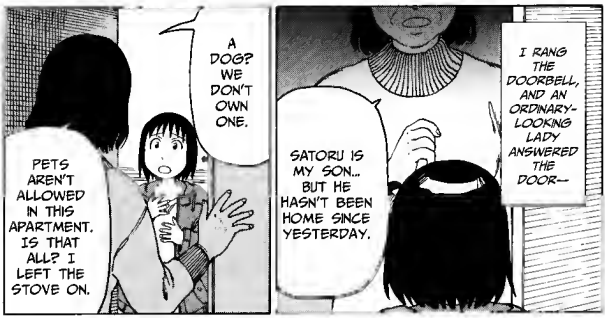
AND SANADA-KUN ISN'T EVEN HERE. WHAT AM I DOING...?
I'M USUALLY QUIET, BUT I'M ALWAYS YELLING WHEN I'M WITH HER...

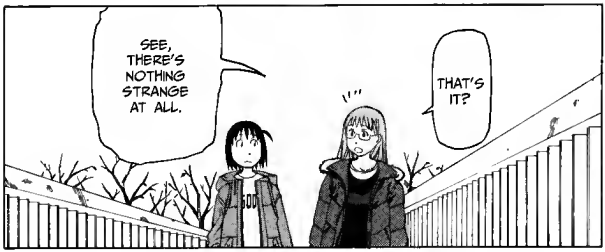
JUST PUT ON SOME-THING NORMAL!!
I DON'T HAVE ANY DETEC-TIVEY CLOTHES.
≥SNIFF SNIFF≤
YOU DEFI-NITELY DON'T LOOK LIKE A DETEC-TIVE...
MORE LIKE AN AD.
GLOOM
もやーん
AD?
ARASHI-YAMA DETEC-TIVE?!
YOU'RE SO WRONG THAT I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.

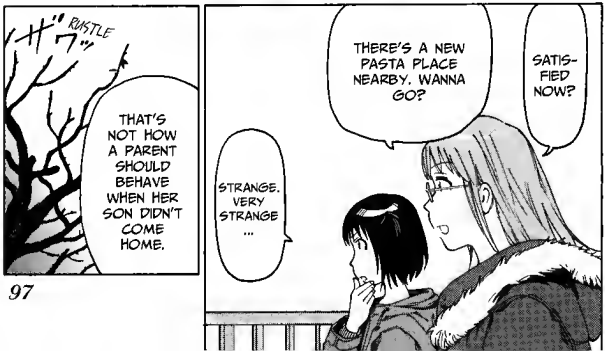
BUILDING: DEMORI APARTMENT

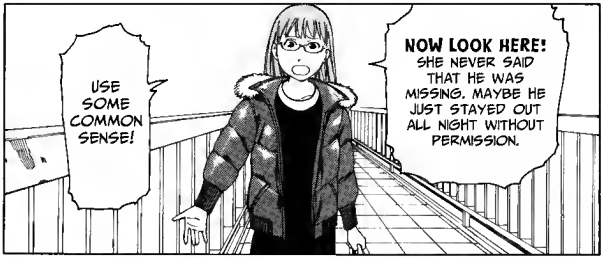





I RANG THE DOORBELL, AND AN ORDINARY-LOOKING LADY ANSWERED THE DOOR--
SATORU IS MY SON... BUT HE HASN'T BEEN HOME SINCE YESTERDAY.
A DOG? WE DON'T OWN ONE.
PETS AREN'T ALLOWED IN THIS APARTMENT. IS THAT ALL? I LEFT THE STOVE ON.


SEE, THERE'S NOTHING STRANGE AT ALL.
THAT'S IT?

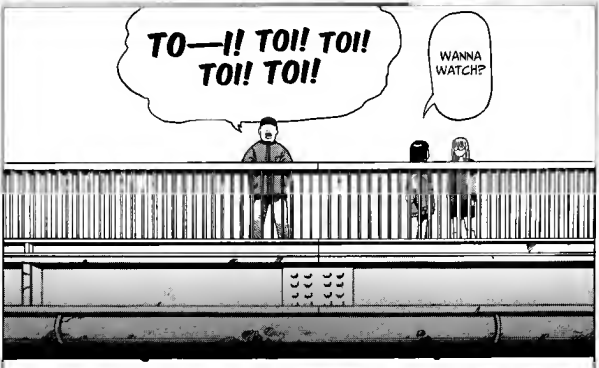

RUSTLE
THAT'S NOT HOW A PARENT SHOULD BEHAVE WHEN HER SON DIDN'T COME HOME.
STRANGE. VERY STRANGE ...
THERE'S A NEW PASTA PLACE NEARBY. WANNA GO?
SATIS-FIED NOW?


USE SOME COMMON SENSE!
NOW LOOK HERE! SHE NEVER SAID THAT HE WAS MISSING. MAYBE HE JUST STAYED OUT ALL NIGHT WITHOUT PERMISSION.

WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM?! WHAT IF THAT WAS AN SOS MESSAGE?!
BUT SATORU-KUN WENT MISSING RIGHT AFTER HE SENT THAT STRANGE E-MAIL!

.....
.....

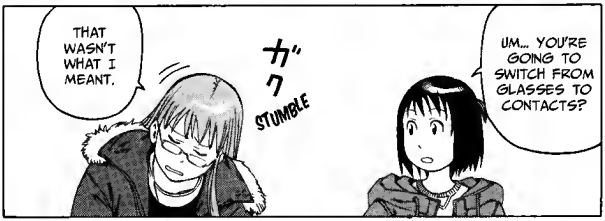
TOOOOI! TOI! TOI! TOI!
JUMP
ヒゥ
TO-I! TOI! TOI!
IT'S OKAY. THAT GUY'S A DUCK CALLER.
LET'S GO. THERE'S A WEIRDO HERE.
TOI! TOI! TOI! TOI!

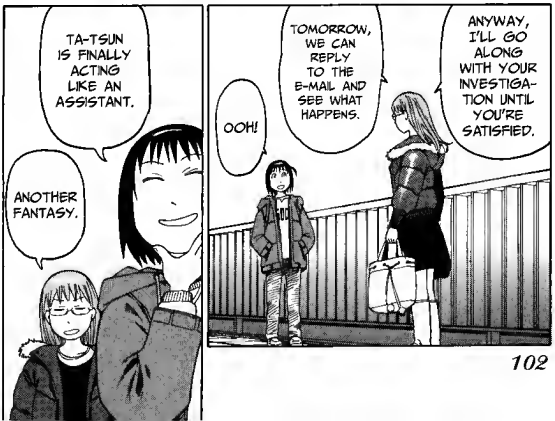

TO—I! TOI! TOI! TOI! TOI!
WANNA WATCH?

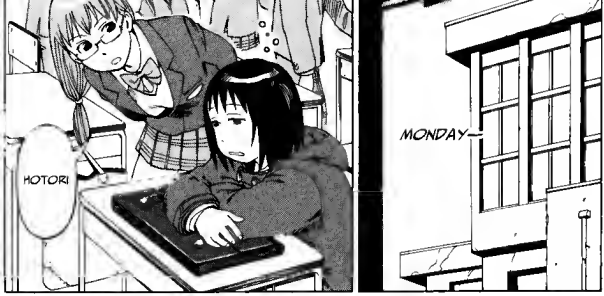
BAG: KAPOK BREAD

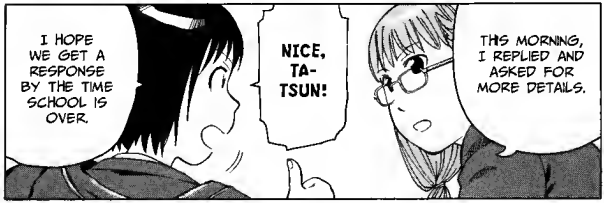
.....
NO WAY...!
FLING
QUACK
QUACK
QUACK
QUACK, QUACK!

HOTORI.
I DOUBT THAT YOUR FANTASIES HAVE ANY TRUTH TO THEM.
BUT I'LL STOP LOOKING AT EVERYTHING THROUGH COMMON SENSE GLASSES.


UM... YOU'RE GOING TO SWITCH FROM GLASSES TO CONTACTS?
ガク
STUMBLE
THAT WASN'T WHAT I MEANT.


ANYWAY, I'LL GO ALONG WITH YOUR INVESTIGATION UNTIL YOU'RE SATISFIED.
TOMORROW, WE CAN REPLY TO THE E-MAIL AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
OOH!
TA-TSUN IS FINALLY ACTING LIKE AN ASSISTANT.
ANOTHER FANTASY.

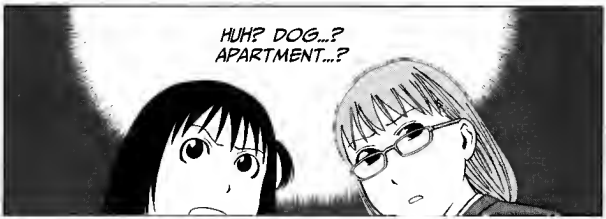

HOTORI
MONDAY—


I HOPE WE GET A RESPONSE BY THE TIME SCHOOL IS OVER.
NICE, TA-TSUN!
THIS MORNING, I REPLIED AND ASKED FOR MORE DETAILS.

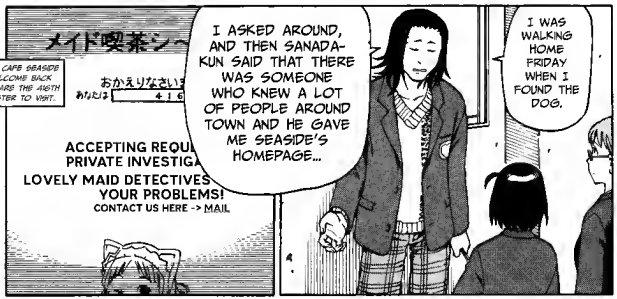
TA-TSUN...
GIVE ME THE BEST.
OH, IT'S THE HEART-LESS BASTARD. CATCH ANY SALMON?
HEY, ARASHI-YAMA, TA-TSUN.
ANYWAY, THERE'S SOME-ONE WHO WANTS TO SEE YOU.
I REALLY WAS BUSY YESTER-DAY! THOUGH I DIDN'T CATCH ANY SALMON.

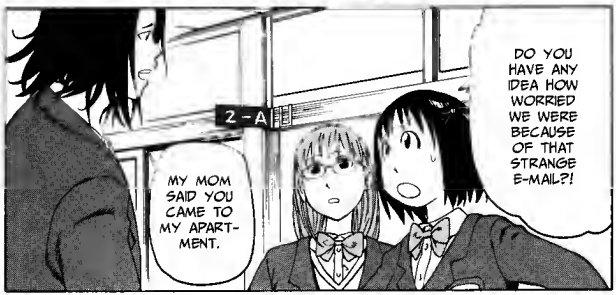
ドン
BAM
THAT GUY WHO LOOKS EVIL?
STUPID! HE'S A REALLY NICE PERSON! THERE WAS THIS ABANDONED DOG...
HE HELD AN UMBRELLA OVER AN ABANDONED DOG?! THAT ONLY HAPPENS IN MANGA!
I GUESS YOU'RE ALONE, JUST LIKE ME.
LET ME FINISH!
HE FELT BAD FOR THE ABANDONED DOG, SO HE TOOK IT HOME WITH HIM, BUT HE LIVES IN AN APARTMENT THAT DOESN'T ALLOW PETS.
SO HE'S BEEN BOUNCING AROUND THE HOMES OF HIS FRIENDS—

TRUE KIND-NESS...
WHAT A GOOD PERSON ...
I WAS HELPING HIM YESTER-DAY.
HE EVEN MADE FLYERS TO LOOK FOR THE ORIGINAL OWNER!!


HUH? DOG...? APARTMENT...?

I'M JOSHIMA.
OH, I'M THE ONE WHO SENT THE E-MAIL.

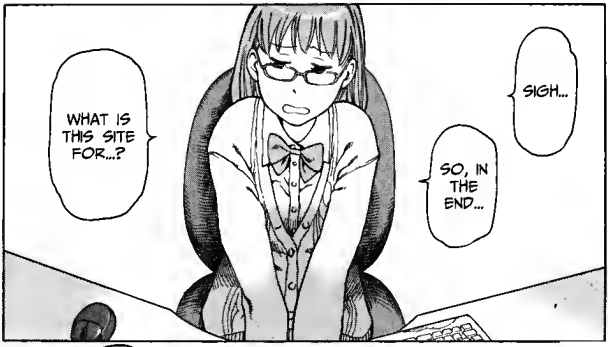

メイド喫茶ン～
MAID CAFE SEASIDE WELCOME BACK YOU ARE THE 48TH MASTER TO VISIT.
おかえりなさい
ACCEPTING REQU
PRIVATE INVESTIGA
LOVELY MAID DETECTIVES
YOUR PROBLEMS!
CONTACT US HERE -> MAIL
I ASKED AROUND, AND THEN SANADA-KUN SAID THAT THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO KNEW A LOT OF PEOPLE AROUND TOWN AND HE GAVE ME SEASIDE'S HOMEPAGE...
I WAS WALKING HOME FRIDAY WHEN I FOUND THE DOG.


2-A
MY MOM SAID YOU CAME TO MY APART-MENT.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW WORRIED WE WERE BECAUSE OF THAT STRANGE E-MAIL?!

AND THEN THE DOG STARTED BARKING, SO I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO FINISH TYPING MY PHONE NUMBER BEFORE I LEFT...
BARK
BARK
SNUFFLES! SHH! SHHHH!!
MOM'S GOING TO BE HOME FROM WORK ANY MINUTE NOW!!
カ"CLACK カ"CLACK カ"CLACK カ"
I WAS IN A RUSH TO GET THAT E-MAIL OUT.

FLYER: THIS PUPPY IS LOOKING FOR AN OWNER. SNIFFLES!

* MAY OR MAY NOT BE A VERY LITERAL INTERPRETATION OF THE PHRASE "SHE GOT WHAT WAS COMING."



I DON'T GET IT!!
メイド喫茶シ～サイド
MAID CAFE SEASIDE WELCOME BACK YOU ARE THE 427TH MASTER TO VISIT.
おかえりなさいませ
あなたは 427 人目のご主人様です
THIS PUPPY IS LOOKING FOR AN OWNER.
CONTACT US HERE -> MAIL

CHAPTER 24 / END

CHAPTER 25
CURSED ROULETTE

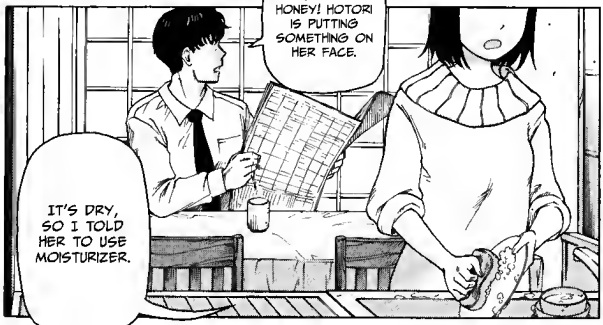
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
MR. MORIAKI, HERE IS YOUR COFFEE.
HANSHIN
Tigers
HERE YOU ARE, MR. KAMETA.
AHH, I APPRE-CIATE IT.
MR. KAMETA, I DIDN'T TAKE YOU FOR A ROMANTIC.
PEOPLE SAY THAT WHEN YOU POUR MILK IN, THE INITIALS OF THE PERSON YOU LIKE FLOAT TO THE SURFACE.

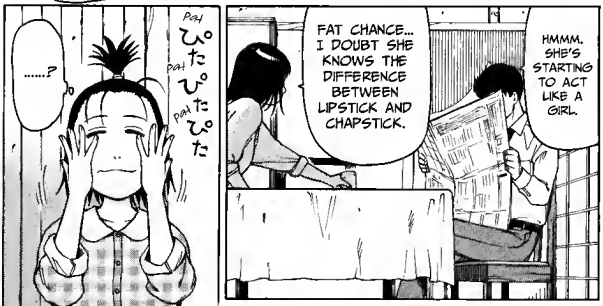
DRIP
ポチョン
HMM... IT KIND OF LOOKS LIKE N.M.
N.M., AS IN "NATSUHIKO MORIAKI"!!
I SEE... I CAN SEE π IN MY CUP.
HE COMPLETELY IGNORED MY HINT!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SEE INITIALS!
DOES THIS MEAN THAT I LIKE P...? WELL, I SUPPOSE I DO.
WHAT DO YOU SEE IN YOUR CUP, MR. KAMETA?

FLOAT
モヤ…
IF MY WIFE'S INITIALS DON'T APPEAR, I'LL BE IN BIG TROUBLE...
DRIP
ポチャ
ミシッ
SQUEAK
CURSE ?!
ガクン
KLUNK
?!
THE JAPANESE KANJI 呪 MEANS CURSE

THE ADJUST-MENT KNOB IS BROKEN.
WHAT?! MY CHAIR SUDDENLY TIPPED OVER?!
YOU CAN USE THAT CHAIR INSTEAD.
THE DESK NEXT TO MINE ISN'T BEING USED.
カ"コ
CREAK
THAT'S NOT GOOD. THE CHAIR SINKS WHEN I PUT WEIGHT ON IT.
I GUESS I WILL.
WHAT A BAD OMEN.
PLEASE DON'T JINX ME, MISS NSHI...

Pat
ぴた
Pat
ぴた
Pat
ぴた
Pat


UH OH. HONEY! HOTORI IS PUTTING SOMETHING ON HER FACE.
IT'S DRY, SO I TOLD HER TO USE MOISTURIZER.


Pat
ぴた
Pat
ぴた
Pat
ぴた
Pat
.....?
FAT CHANCE... I DOUBT SHE KNOWS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIPSTICK AND CHAPSTICK.
HMMM. SHE'S STARTING TO ACT LIKE A GIRL.

SHRIEEEK
ウギャーッ
WHAT?! WHAT'S WRONG?!
MY EYES... MY EYES—!!
MY FACE IS BURNING—!!
AND THEN IT'S FREEZING!!
WHAT DID YOU PUT ON YOUR FACE?!
BLACK BOTTLE: HAIR GROWTH KING
AH!
育毛王
YOU USED THE WRONG ONE...
育毛王
GREY BOTTLE: LIQUID SKIN

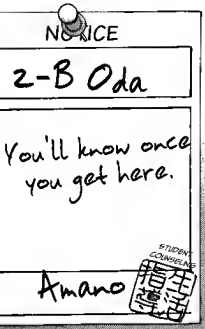
DON'T BE STUPID!
MY EYES WON'T OPEN! I'M NOT GOING TO SCHOOL!
FOOL! THIS OIL IS THE REASON I HAVE SO MUCH HAIR!
STUPID DAD!! WHY ARE YOU USING HAIR GROWTH OIL WHEN YOU AREN'T EVEN BALDING?!

SIGH.
AND THAT'S WHY I WAS SO LATE.

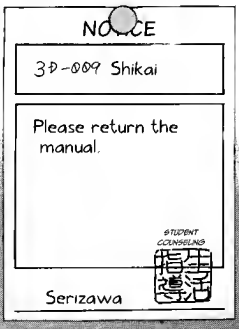
TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION.
I'M IMPRESSED THAT YOU CAN COME UP WITH SO MANY DIFFERENT EXCUSES.

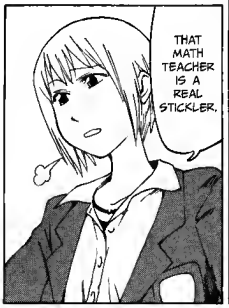
JUST FINE, THANK YOU...!
HOW'S YOUR HAIR, MR. MORIAKI?
...IT MUST SUCK TO BE A GROWN MAN.
IF YOU HAVE TO PUT THAT STUFF ON YOUR HEAD EVERY DAY...
HEH
HEH
HEH
SHIFTING THE BLAME!
BUT IF I START LOSING HAIR BECAUSE OF STRESS, IT'LL BE YOUR FAULT.
WHAAAT!
WE'LL DISCUSS THIS AFTER SCHOOL. DON'T GO HOME.
CLASS BEGINS NOW, SO TAKE A SEAT.
I SEE YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED YOUR LESSON...
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH

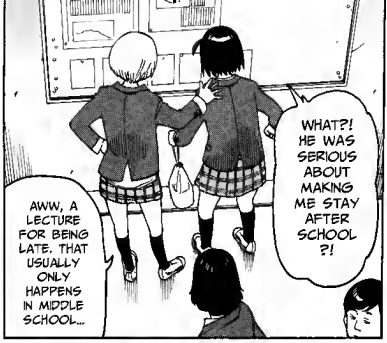
I ALMOST BRUSHED MY TEETH WITH SHAMPOO ONCE.
HA HA HA! YOU'RE SO SILLY!
HMM... WELL...
I GUESS I'VE DONE THAT BEFORE.
I WAS COMMISERATING, SO DON'T MOCK ME!!
WHOA, MADE HER MAD.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE TALKING!!

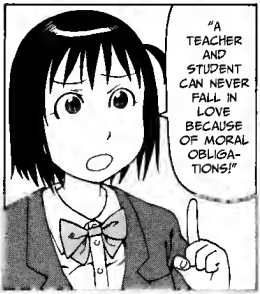

NOTICE
2-B Oda
You'll know once you get here.
STUDENT COUNSELING
Amano

NOTICE
2A-020 ARASAIYAMA HOTORI
TARDY
STUDENT COUNSELING
MORIAKI NATSUHIKO


NOTICE
3D-009 Shikai
Please return the manual.
STUDENT COUNSELING
Serizawa


THAT MATH TEACHER IS A REAL STICKLER.

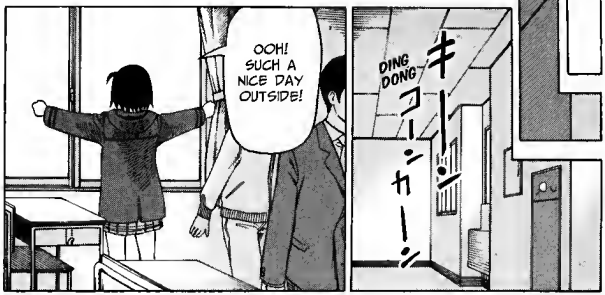

AWW, A LECTURE FOR BEING LATE. THAT USUALLY ONLY HAPPENS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...
WHAT?! HE WAS SERIOUS ABOUT MAKING ME STAY AFTER SCHOOL?!

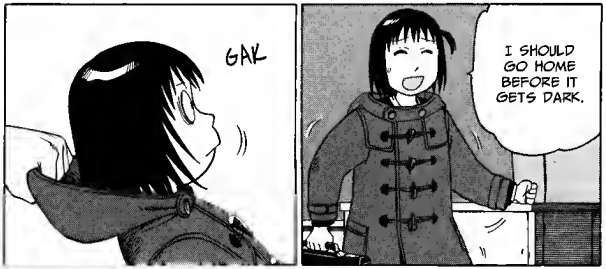

"A TEACHER AND STUDENT CAN NEVER FALL IN LOVE BECAUSE OF MORAL OBLIGATIONS!"

HAVE YOU HEARD HOW BAD—?
YOU MEAN THE STORY ABOUT THE LOVE LETTER? TA-TSUN TOLD ME THAT ONE.

BUT SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE INTERESTED IN MORIAKI NOW.
FIVE OR SIX YEARS LATER, THE GIRL WHO GAVE HIM THE LOVE LETTER BECAME A TEACHER AT THIS SCHOOL.
W-WHOA...

THERE'S ACTUALLY MORE TO THE STORY.

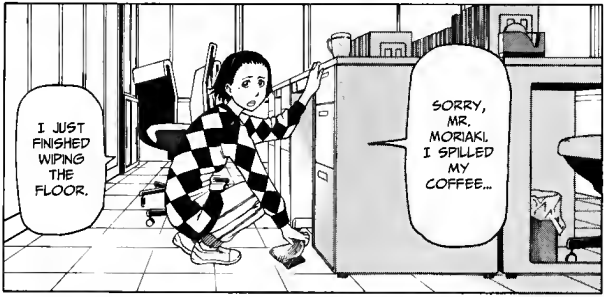

OOH! SUCH A NICE DAY OUTSIDE!
DING DONG
キーンコーンカーン


GAK
I SHOULD GO HOME BEFORE IT GETS DARK.

YOUR UNNATURAL BEHAVIOR REMINDED ME THAT I NEEDED TO TALK TO YOU.
UGH... I TRIED TO SNEAK OUT IN A NATURAL FASHION, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK...

!!
THAT DEPENDS ON YOUR BEHAVIOR.
I NEED TO GO TO WORK, SO CAN YOU MAKE THIS QUICK?
A WAY TO EXACT REVENGE ON ARASHIYAMA FOR THE TROUBLE SHE GIVES ME.
I JUST HAD A THOUGHT THAT NO TEACHER SHOULD EVER HAVE.
I DIDN'T REALIZE I HAVE SUCH A WONDERFUL SENSE OF HUMOR...!!
HEH HEH HEH... EXCELLENT.
WAH!
ガクン
KLONK
IF I HAVE HER SIT IN THE BROKEN CHAIR, SHE'LL GET A REAL SCARE...

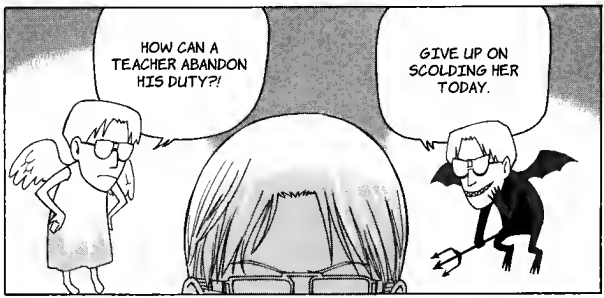
!
SIGN: FACULTY OFFICE
職員室
SLAM
ガ
チャ


I JUST FINISHED WIPING THE FLOOR.
SORRY, MR. MORIAKI. I SPILLED MY COFFEE...

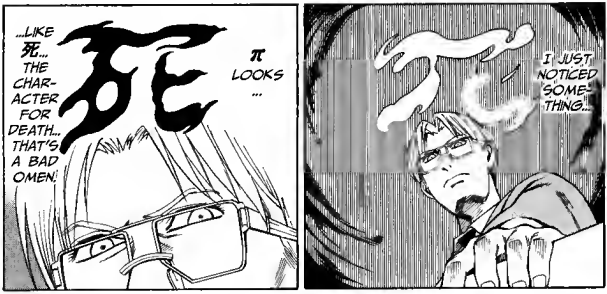
I CAN'T TELL WHICH CHAIR IS THE ONE THAT SINKS!
AH ?!

*POSITIONING CHANGES ACCORDING TO HOW SERIOUS THE CRIME IS.
MILD
CRIME
SEVERE
...WHICH MEANS...?
UNFORTUNATELY, PROJECT ARASHIYAMA SIT DOWN MUST BE CANCELED.
THAT MEANS I HAVE TO SIT DOWN IN ONE OF THE CHAIRS!
WHOA!
ガクン
KLUNK
IF I SIT IN THE CHAIR THAT SINKS, MY DIGNITY WILL TAKE A HIT...

I SHOULD HAVE MARKED THE BROKEN CHAIR THIS MORNING.
WHICH CHAIR IS IT? I CAN'T TELL BY PUSHING DOWN ON THEM...
ROCK
ROCK
UGH!


HOW CAN A TEACHER ABANDON HIS DUTY?!
GIVE UP ON SCOLDING HER TODAY.

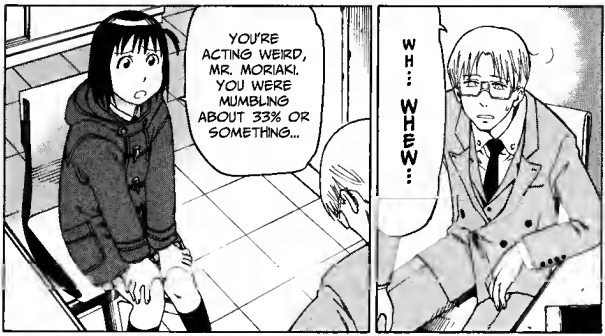
DAMN! SHE HAS NO IDEA HOW HARD THIS IS!
ER... GO AHEAD.
I'M GOING TO SIT DOWN.
...OKAY.

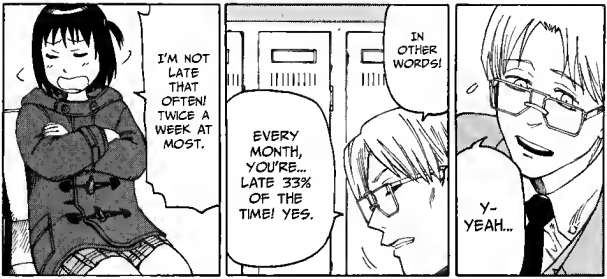

...LIKE 死... THE CHARACTER FOR DEATH... THAT'S A BAD OMEN.
π LOOKS ...
I JUST NOTICED SOMETHING...

FLINCH
THE FACTS ARE SIMPLE. THERE'S A 33.333% CHANCE THAT THE CHAIR WILL SINK WHEN I SIT DOWN!
mumble
mumble
mumble
mumble
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER! OMENS ARE NOT REAL.

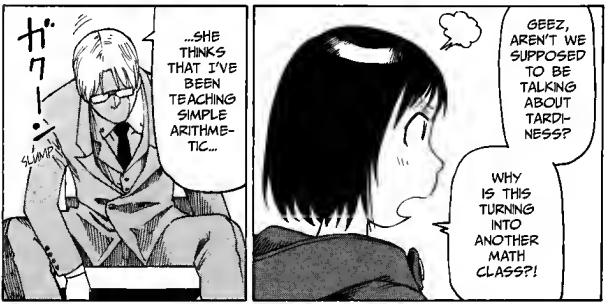
NO HARD FEELINGS.
?
ER... OKAY.
I'M GOING TO SIT. YOU, TAKE A SEAT.

PLOP
ストン


YOU'RE ACTING WEIRD, MR. MORIAKI. YOU WERE MUMBLING ABOUT 33% OR SOMETHING...
WH... WHEW...


I'M NOT LATE THAT OFTEN! TWICE A WEEK AT MOST.
EVERY MONTH, YOU'RE... LATE 33% OF THE TIME! YES.
IN OTHER WORDS!
Y-YEAH...

HUH? WE HAVE SCHOOL SIX DAYS A WEEK...
AND I'M LATE TWO OF THOSE DAYS...
I KNOW YOU HAVE TROUBLE WITH MATH, BUT CAN'T YOU EVEN HANDLE SIMPLE ARITHME-TIC?
ARASHI-YAMA...

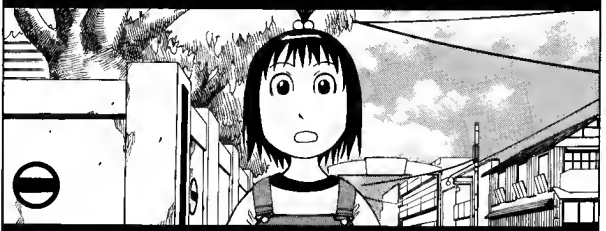

ガクーン
SLUMP
...SHE THINKS THAT I'VE BEEN TEACHING SIMPLE ARITHME-TIC...
GEEZ, AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO BE TALKING ABOUT TARDI-NESS?
WHY IS THIS TURNING INTO ANOTHER MATH CLASS?!

...MUST...
AS A TEACHER, I MUST...
FOR ARASHIYAMA'S SAKE, I MUST GIVE HER A STERN WARNING...
I AVOIDED THE SINKING CHAIR, BUT MY SPIRITS ARE SINKING INSTEAD!
HUM... HUM HUMMM ...
♪
♪ LAAA... LA LA LA...
WHEW, FINALLY GET TO SIT DOWN.
CHANCE THAT HE WON'T BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN HIS DIGNITY MUCH LONGER... 100%!

CHAPTER 25 / END

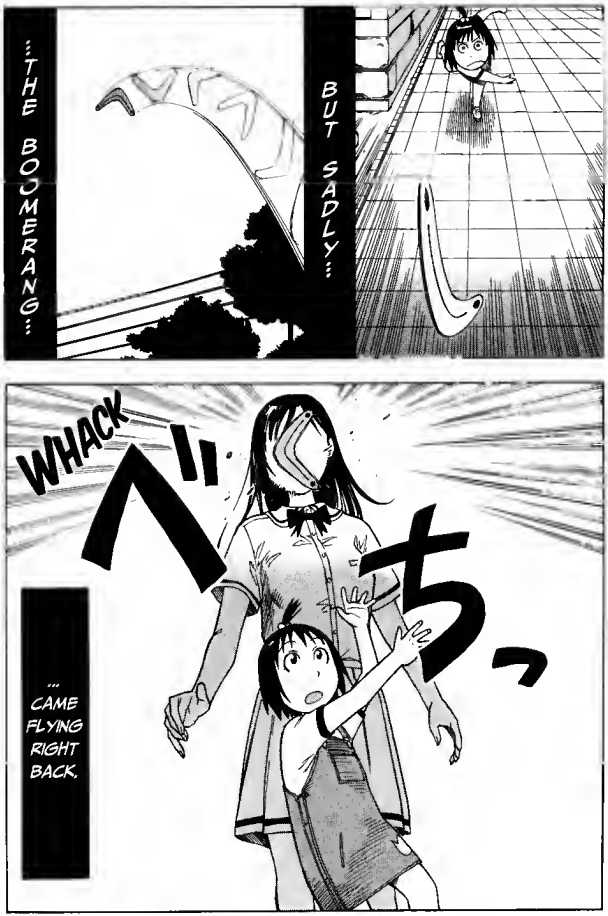
CHAPTER 26
BIRTH OF THE YOUNG GIRL DETECTIVE

TEN YEARS AGO...

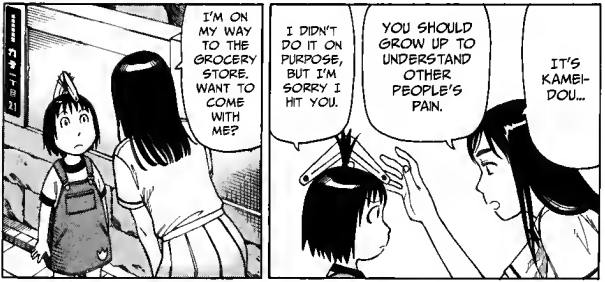


...HOTORI VENTED HER FRUSTRATION...

...ON THIS BOOMERANG.


...THE BOOMERANG...
BUT SADLY...
WHACK
ヘリ
ちっ
...CAME FLYING RIGHT BACK,

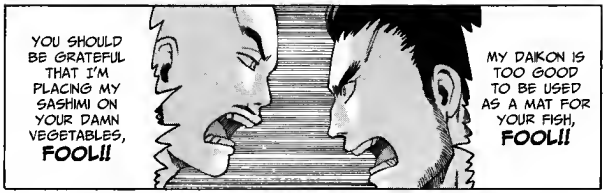
CAN YOU IMAGINE IT?
AH! THE KAMEN-DOU LADY.
AT LEAST THIS THING'S MADE OUT OF SOMETHING SPONGY...
IF YOU'D HIT ME IN THE FACE WITH A REAL BOOMER-ANG, THAT WOULD'VE BEEN MESSY.
PLOP


I'M ON MY WAY TO THE GROCERY STORE. WANT TO COME WITH ME?
I DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE, BUT I'M SORRY I HIT YOU.
YOU SHOULD GROW UP TO UNDERSTAND OTHER PEOPLE'S PAIN.
IT'S KAMEI-DOU...

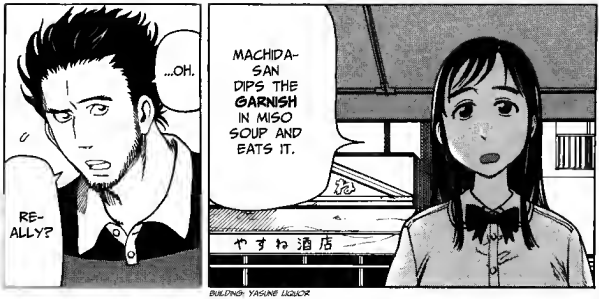
I'M NOT A STRANGER. I'M THE KAMENDOU LADY. WE DID SOME SCAVENGING TOGETHER THE OTHER DAY.
I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO FOLLOW A STRANGER!

OH, THE FISH-MONGER'S SON SAID THAT?
WELL, BOYS HAVE THEIR OWN RULES.
PLAYING WITH A GIRL MAKES YOU A GIRL, TOO.
WHICH IS SILLY.
BUT ONCE YOU'RE OLDER, GIRLS GET TO BOSS BOYS AROUND.
SO DON'T FORGET WHAT HE SAID TO YOU TODAY.

八 百 菊
AWNING: GROCERY
JUST KISS THE FLOOR, DAMMIT!
...TO BUY DAIKON FROM A GROCERY STORE, EH?!
WHY DO I NEED TO GET DOWN ON MY KNEES...

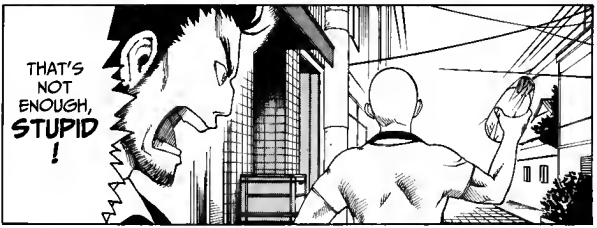

YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THAT I'M PLACING MY SASHIMI ON YOUR DAMN VEGETABLES, FOOL!!
MY DAIKON IS TOO GOOD TO BE USED AS A MAT FOR YOUR FISH, FOOL!!

IT'S DAI-KON!
MACHIDA ASKED ME TO BRING HIM A PLATTER OF SASHIMI...
...BUT THIS GUY WON'T SELL ME THE MAT.
OH! LISTEN TO THIS, SHIZUKA-CHAN.
RIGHT?
THIS TOWN IS SUCH A BAD INFLUENCE WHEN ADULTS CURSE AT EACH OTHER ALL THE TIME.



BUILDING: YASUNE LIQUOR

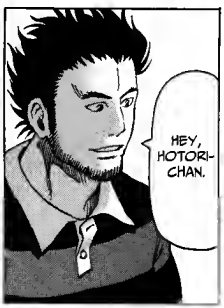
50 YEN COIN (ABOUT 50 CENTS)



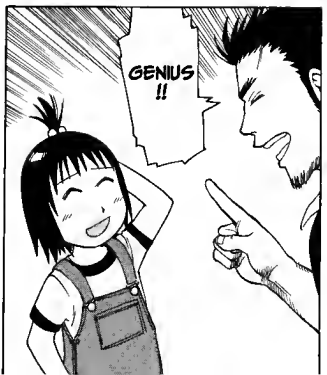
GOOD GRIEF.

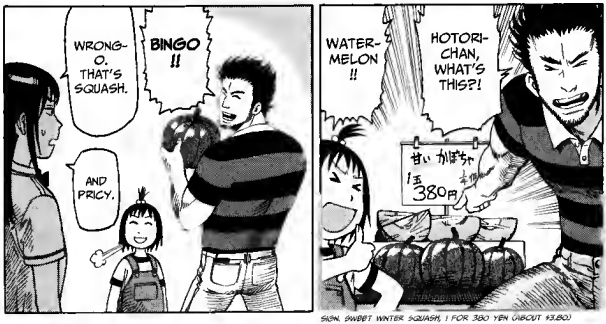
I AIN'T FRIENDS WITH THAT SHINY BALD HEAD!
YOU TWO ARE SUCH CLOSE FRIENDS.

EGG-PLANT!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?


HEY, HOTORI-CHAN.

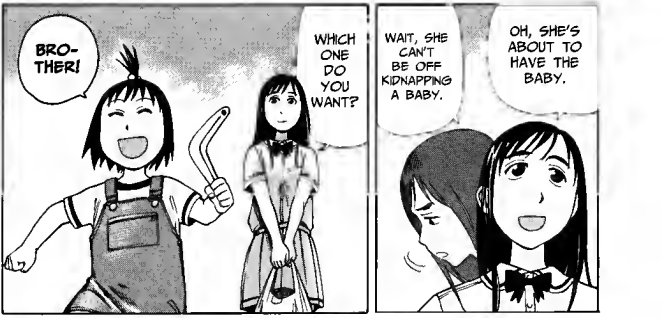
EGG-PLANT!!
NICE LADY!


GENIUS !!



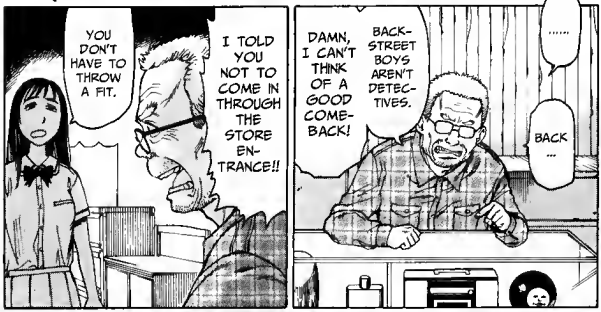
SIGN: SWEET WINTER SQUASH, 1 FOR 380 YEN (ABOUT ¥3.80)

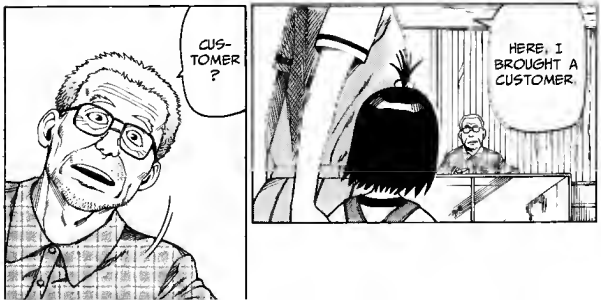
SHOULDN'T YOU BE HEADING HOME?
NOPE, NO ONE'S THERE.
HUH? WHAT ABOUT YOUR MOM?
SHE WENT OFF TO... KIDNAP MY LITTLE BROTHER OR SISTER.


OH, SHE'S ABOUT TO HAVE THE BABY.
WAIT, SHE CAN'T BE OFF KIDNAPPING A BABY.
WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT?
BRO-THER!

SIGH. WE BEGIN BAKING AT 4 AM.
I'LL NAME HIM SAWSHARK!
I'M PRETTY SURE THEY WON'T USE THAT NAME.

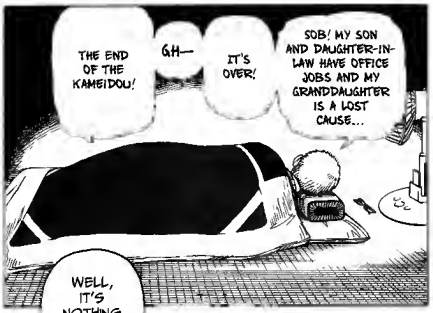
SIGN: KAMEIDOU ANTIQUES (WE BUY AND SELL)


YOU DON'T HAVE TO THROW A FIT.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME IN THROUGH THE STORE ENTRANCE!!
DAMN, I CAN'T THINK OF A GOOD COMEBACK!
BACKSTREET BOYS AREN'T DETECTIVES.
.....
BACK...

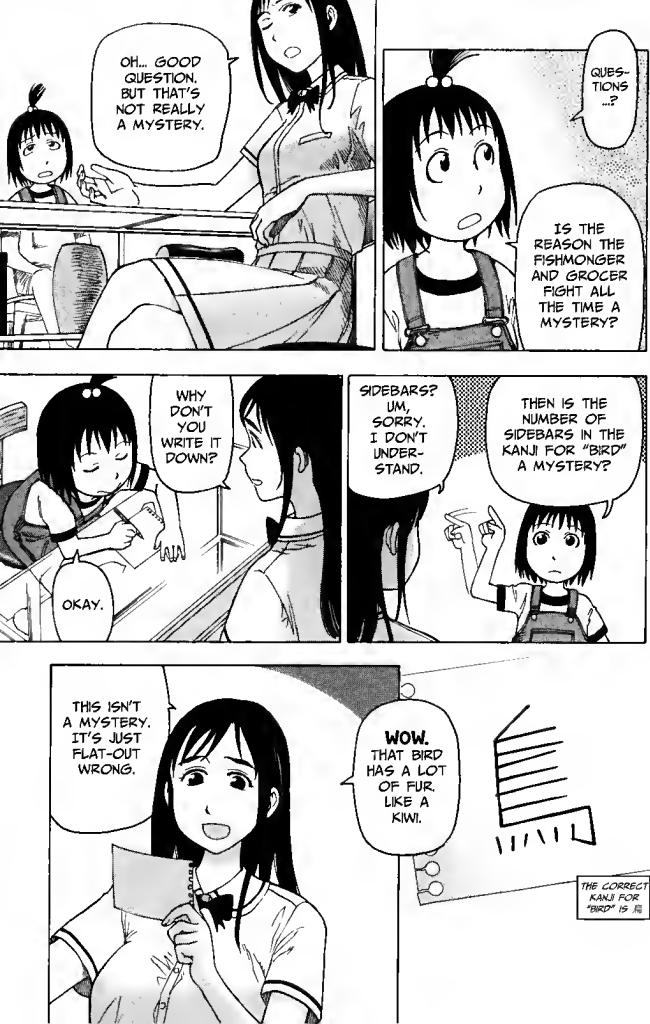


WELCOME.
ガ〜ン
GLOOM
I'M DONE HERE...
IS YOUR CUSTOMER ...
...THIS GIRL WITH A FOUNTAIN HEAD?
GRR...
WHAT? DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT WE SHOULDN'T JUDGE CUSTOMERS BY THEIR APPEARANCE?
I'M GOING TO MAKE TEA. WHAT DO YOU WANT, HOTORI-CHAN?
DON'T HAVE ANY.
ICE CREAM.
HOW CAN A STORE NOT HAVE ICE CREAM?
I'M SO SORRY THAT WE DON'T HAVE WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

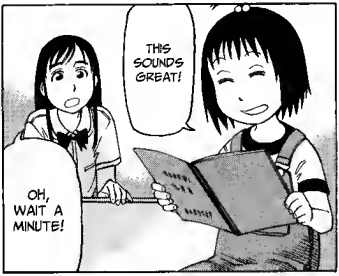
MILK IN A TEACUP... NOW, THAT'S INTERESTING...
HOTORI-CHAN, HERE'S...
HEY, SHIZU! ISN'T THIS A ROSANJIIN CUP?!
AHHHHH—?!!
OH? IT LOOKED NICE, SO I BORROWED IT.
I WASHED IT FIRST.
YOU'VE GOT GOOD TASTE!!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH THAT'S WORTH? AND YOU POURED MILK IN IT!!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID THAT THESE PIECES WILL LOSE THEIR SPARK IF THEY AREN'T USED...
AH... GASP... UGH...


THE END OF THE KAMEIDOU!
GH—
IT'S OVER!
SOB! MY SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW HAVE OFFICE JOBS AND MY GRANDDAUGHTER IS A LOST CAUSE...
WELL, IT'S NOTHING NEW.

NOTE ON CALENDAR: 27–30 ANTIQUE ROADSHOW


OH... GOOD QUESTION. BUT THAT'S NOT REALLY A MYSTERY.
QUES-TIONS ...?
IS THE REASON THE FISHMONGER AND GROCER FIGHT ALL THE TIME A MYSTERY?
WHY DON'T YOU WRITE IT DOWN?
OKAY.
SIDEBARS? UM, SORRY. I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
THEN IS THE NUMBER OF SIDEBARS IN THE KANJI FOR "BIRD" A MYSTERY?
THIS ISN'T A MYSTERY. IT'S JUST FLAT-OUT WRONG.
WOW. THAT BIRD HAS A LOT OF FUR. LIKE A KIWI.
THE CORRECT KANJI FOR "BIRD" IS 鳥

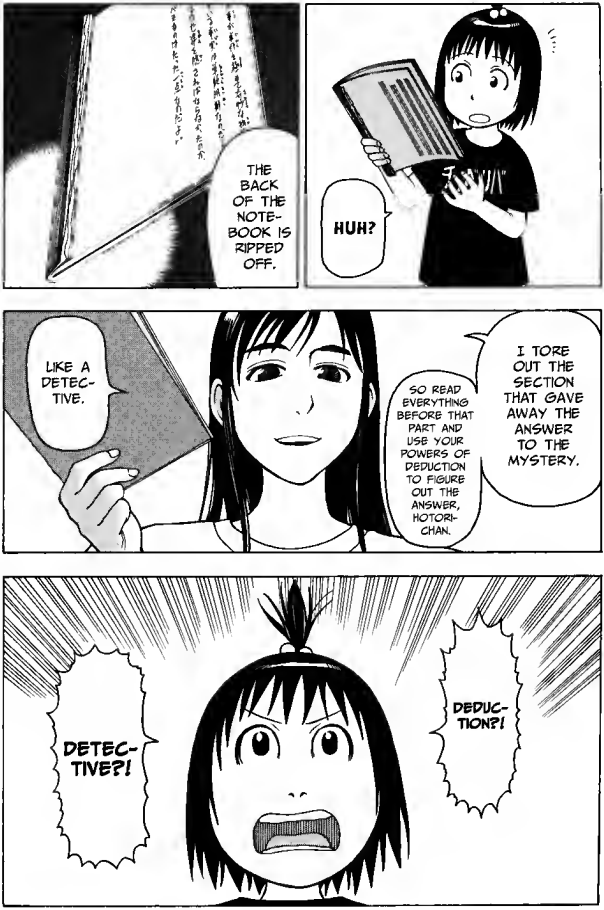
A MYSTERY IS... LET'S SEE. DO YOU LIKE TO READ, HOTORI-CHAN?
UH HUH!
WHAT HAVE YOU READ RECENTLY?
THE RESTAURANT WITH MANY ORDERS.
THAT WOULD JUST BE A BUSY RESTAURANT!
YOU MEAN THE RESTAURANT OF MANY ORDERS.
MIYAZAWA KENJI, HUH? YOU'RE REALLY LITERATE.
HEE HEE.
?
BOOK: STRANGE TALES FROM THE MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT
THE MISSING DRY CLEANER
THIS IS A MYSTERY THAT TAKES PLACE HERE IN THE MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT.
丸子商店街の怪事件
消えたクリーニング屋
YOU'LL RECOGNIZE A LOT OF THE CHARACTERS.
THIS IS... A STORY THAT I WROTE.
WHAT?! LEMME SEE!!



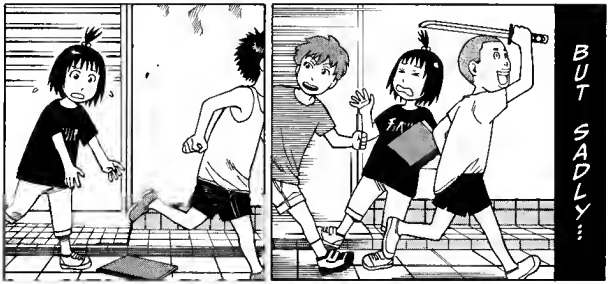
FURIGANA ARE SMALL CHARACTERS PRINTED ALONGSIDE THE KANJI TO GIVE THE PHONETIC READING.

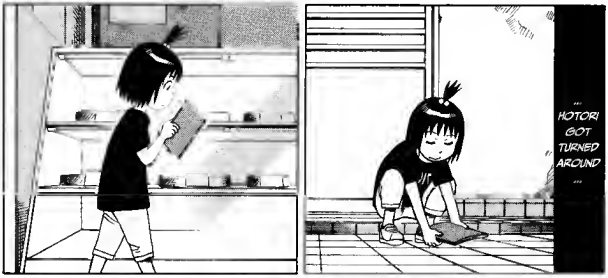
SAY, ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING AT MY PLACE?
WHAAAT? I HAVE COLLEGE APPLICATION EXAMS THIS YEAR. BESIDES, I'M NOT GOOD AT THE WHOLE CUSTOMER SERVICE THING.
THOUGHT SO. THE CUSTOMERS WOULD KNOW YOU WERE LOOKING DOWN ON THEM.
...
WHAT IS IT, GRAN?
OH, IT'S NOTHING.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF MY CAFE WILL BE AROUND THAT LONG.
HUH?

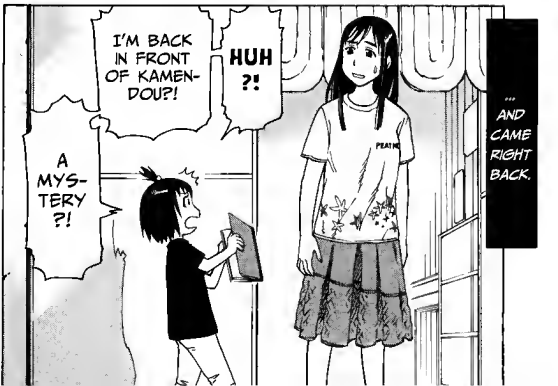
丸子商店街
SIGN: MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT
SIGN: BARBERSHOP SHIMOZAWA
理容室
シモザワ
I WROTE FURIGANA NEXT TO ALL OF THE KANJI.
IF THERE'S A WORD YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, ASK YOUR FATHER OR GRANNY.
BOOKCOVER: STRANGE TALES FROM THE MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT
まるこしょうてんがい
丸子商店街
かいじけん
怪事件


THE BACK OF THE NOTE-BOOK IS RIPPED OFF.
HUH?
I TORE OUT THE SECTION THAT GAVE AWAY THE ANSWER TO THE MYSTERY.
SO READ EVERYTHING BEFORE THAT PART AND USE YOUR POWERS OF DEDUCTION TO FIGURE OUT THE ANSWER, HOTORI-CHAN.
LIKE A DETEC-TIVE.
DEDUC-TION?!
DETEC-TIVE?!

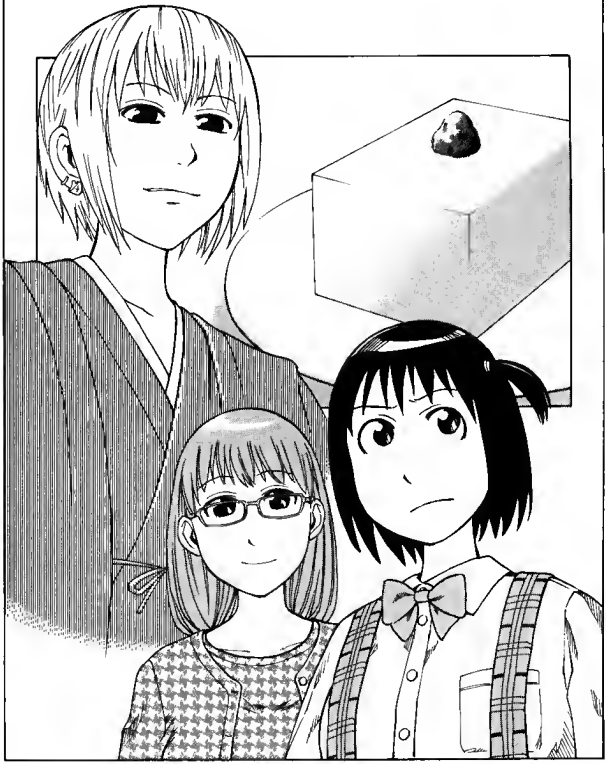
LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE THE ANSWER.
WELL ...
PEAT MOTH
IF YOU CAN SOLVE THIS MYSTERY, I'LL LET YOU BECOME MY ASSISTANT.
TEN YEARS AGO...
YAY!
...HOTORI SET DOWN ON THE PATH TO BECOME A DETECTIVE.


BUT SADLY...


...HOTORI GOT TURNED AROUND...

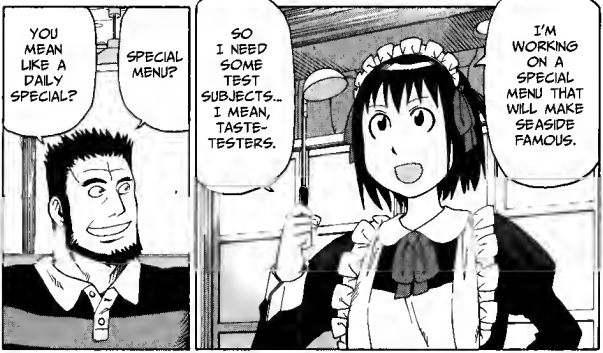

...AND CAME RIGHT BACK.
HUH?!
I'M BACK IN FRONT OF KAMEN-DOU?!
A MYS-TERY?!
CHAPTER 26 / END

CHAPTER 27
ONE OR EIGHT AGAIN



SIGN: MAID CAFE SEASIDE

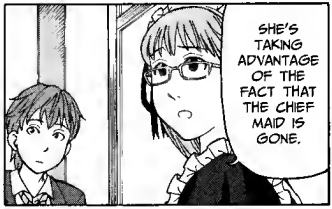
YOU LEAVE YOUR SHOPS UNATTENDED EVERY DAY!
WE LEFT OUR SHOPS UNATTENDED TO COME HERE.
JUST SPIT IT OUT.

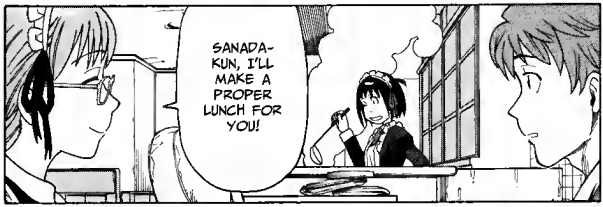

YOU MEAN LIKE A DAILY SPECIAL?
SPECIAL MENU?
SO I NEED SOME TEST SUBJECTS.. I MEAN, TASTE-TESTERS.
I'M WORKING ON A SPECIAL MENU THAT WILL MAKE SEASIDE FAMOUS.

WHY ARE THESE OLD MEN SO COOPERATIVE WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING FUN OF OTHER PEOPLE?
BWA HA HA
GUH HE-H HA HA
HE-H HE-H
MAYBE SHE'LL LAY AN EGG!
AN EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!

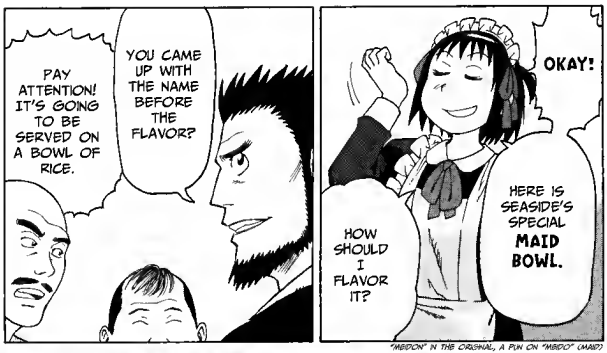
NO PROB-LEM!

OOPS !!
SHOULDN'T YOU BE WATCHING YOUR SPECIAL MENU? I HEAR SOME STRANGE SOUNDS.
DRIP
SIZZLE
ジュワ〜
BUBBLE
ブシュ
BUBBLE
ブシュ

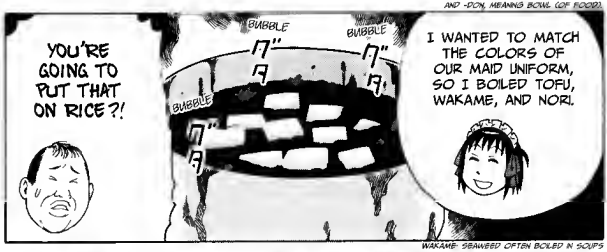

SHE'S TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT THE CHIEF MAID IS GONE.


SANADA-KUN, I'LL MAKE A PROPER LUNCH FOR YOU!

...YEAH.
GLANCE
チラ


PAY ATTENTION! IT'S GOING TO BE SERVED ON A BOWL OF RICE.
YOU CAME UP WITH THE NAME BEFORE THE FLAVOR?
OKAY!
HERE IS SEASIDE'S SPECIAL MAID BOWL.
HOW SHOULD I FLAVOR IT?

"MEIDON" IN THE ORIGINAL, A PUN ON "MAIDO" (MAID) AND -DON, MEANING BOWL (OF FOOD).


YOU'RE GOING TO PUT THAT ON RICE?!
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
I WANTED TO MATCH THE COLORS OF OUR MAID UNIFORM, SO I BOILED TOFU, WAKAME, AND NORI.

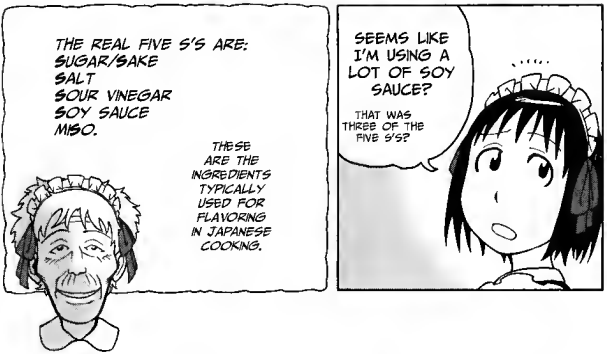
WAKAME: SEAWEED OFTEN BOILED IN SOUPS
NORI: DRIED SEAWEED USED TO WRAP SUSHI, OR AS GARNISH

THE FIVE S'S? ...I THINK GRAN'S MENTIONED THOSE BEFORE.
SLAP TOGETHER THE SLOP AND ADD SOUR VINEGAR.
YOU LIE!!
EVERY-THING YOU MADE WOULD BE SOUR!!
WHAT HAP-PENED TO THE OTHER TWO S'S?

SOY SAUCE AND SUGAR ARE THE FIRST TWO... I THINK.
I SEE. THEN I'LL ADD SUGAR...
AND SOY SAUCE ...
SOUR VINEGAR IS THIRD, RIGHT?
SPLASH
ばしゃっ

WHAT'S NEXT?
NEXT...? SAGE?
SSSS... WHAT WAS IT?
UH...

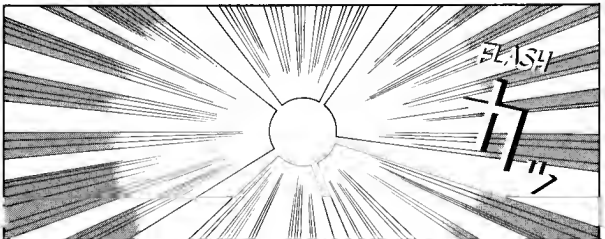
WHAT'S LAST?
SOY SAUCE ...
OH, YOU'RE SHARP, KOBUHEI!
SOYBEANS. BECAUSE SOY SAUCE IS MADE FROM SOYBEANS!
I KNOW!
EUREKA
SOY SAUCE ...
DRIBBLE
ちょろ
HE MEANS SOY SAUCE.
AND IN JAPANESE COOKING, THE ONLY SAUCE IS SOYBEAN SAUCE.
SOY-BEAN SAUCE?
SAUCE... THAT MUST BE IT.
APRON AKA DRY CLEANING

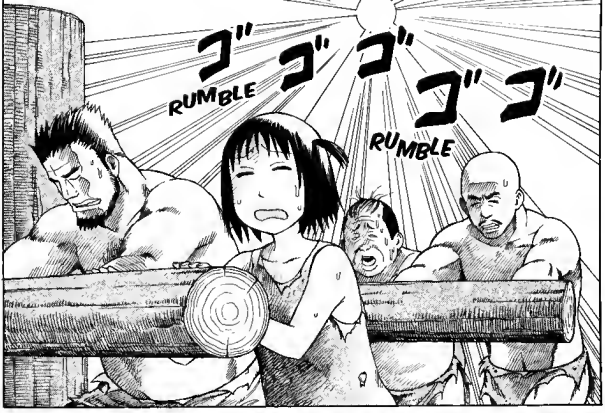

THE REAL FIVE S'S ARE:
SUGAR/SAKE
SALT
SOUR VINEGAR
SOY SAUCE
MISO.
THESE ARE THE INGREDIENTS TYPICALLY USED FOR FLAVORING IN JAPANESE COOKING.
SEEMS LIKE I'M USING A LOT OF SOY SAUCE?
THAT WAS THREE OF THE FIVE S'S?

OKAY, MAID BOWL #1 IS ALL DONE.

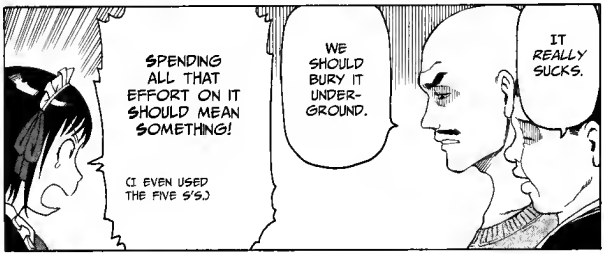
DON'T FORGET TO EAT IT WITH RICE.

gulp
ぱく
gulp
ぱく
gulp
ぱく
gulp
ぱく


SLASH


ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

IT SUCKS.


IT REALLY SUCKS.
WE SHOULD BURY IT UNDER-GROUND.
SPENDING ALL THAT EFFORT ON IT SHOULD MEAN SOMETHING!
(I EVEN USED THE FIVE S'S.)

SLAM
POPS!
SHE PUT TIME AND EFFORT INTO COOKING THAT...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO HARSH!

ER—
WHY DON'T YOU TRY SOME, THEN?!

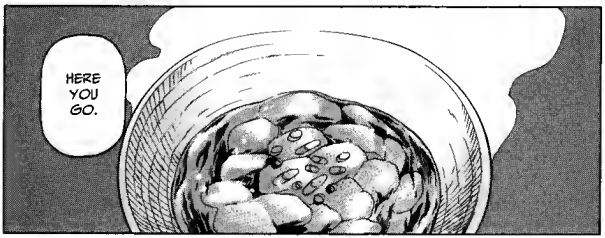
BLACK AND WHITE... IT'S LIKE A FUNERAL.
DOT
DOT
DOT
DOT
WOW... I ALREADY KNOW THAT THIS IS GOING TO TASTE HORRIBLE.
SMELLS LIKE ROTTEN VINEGAR!

THIS HAPPENS ALL THE TIME IN MANGA. IF I'M ABLE TO WOLF THIS DOWN, WON'T I SCORE MAJOR POINTS WITH THE MAIN HEROINE?!
IT'S PRETTY GOOD.
YAY, THANK YOU!!
WAIT?!
GOBBLE
ンガガガー
HEAVEN OR HELL!!
OKAY!
ﾋｭｭｯ
ｼｭｯ

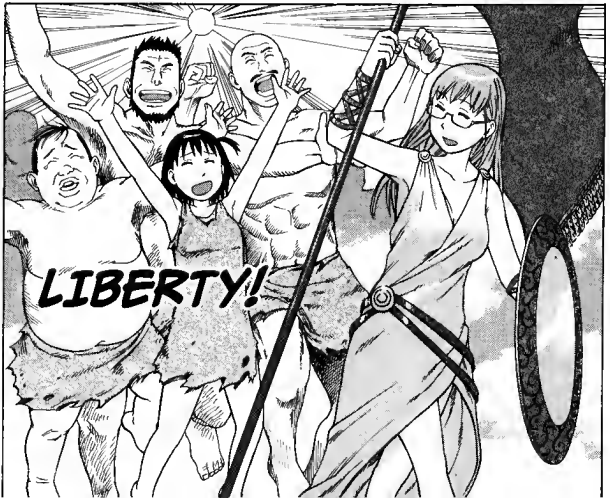
TOILET
YOU STUPID IDIOT!
WHY'D YOU LOCK YOURSELF IN THE BATH-ROOM?!
HORRI-BOWL.
TERRI-BOWL.
UNBE-LIEVA-BOWL.

BUBBLE
BUBBLE
CHOP
CHOP

LET ME BORROW THIS FOR A BIT.

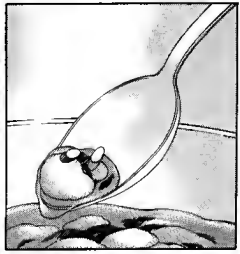

HERE YOU GO.

ANKAKE REFERS TO A SAUCE THAT HAS BEEN THICKENED WITH THE ADDITION OF A STARCH



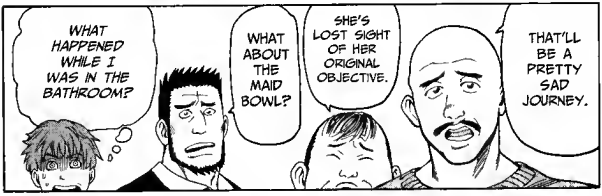
GODHAND TERU: A MEDICAL MANGA BY KAZUKI YAMAMOTO, ALSO FEATURING A DOCTOR WITH MIRACULOUS SURGICAL SKILLS

BLACK JACK: A MANGA BY OSAMU TEZUKA. THE PROTAGONIST, BLACK JACK, PERFORMS MIRACULOUS SURGERIES TO SAVE HIS PATIENTS' LIVES.



WAIT, THIS IS MY CHANCE TO REDEEM MYSELF FOR MY EARLIER BLUNDER.
M-MARRY—?! WHAT IS THIS OLD MAN TALKING ABOUT?
I ENVY THE PERSON WHO GETS TO MARRY A COOK LIKE THIS.
RIGHT?!
I'D LIKE TO MARRY SOMEONE WHO CAN COOK THIS WELL...
U-UH... YEAH.
HUH?!
ET TU...?!
SANADA...!

A JOURNEY TO FIND SOMEONE WHO'S A WORSE COOK THAN I AM!!
GRR! I'M PISSED NOW!! I'M GOING OFF ON A JOURNEY!!


WHAT HAPPENED WHILE I WAS IN THE BATHROOM?
WHAT ABOUT THE MAID BOWL?
SHE'S LOST SIGHT OF HER ORIGINAL OBJECTIVE.
THAT'LL BE A PRETTY SAD JOURNEY.

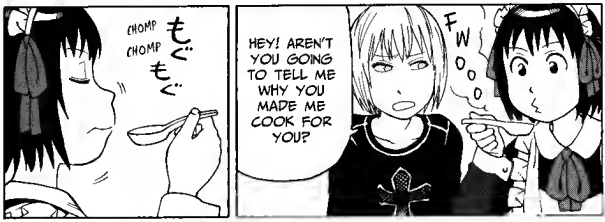
YEAH.
OH, WELL. GUESS THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY.

SHUT UP! HAVE TA-TSUN MAKE YOU YOUR MAID BOWL!!

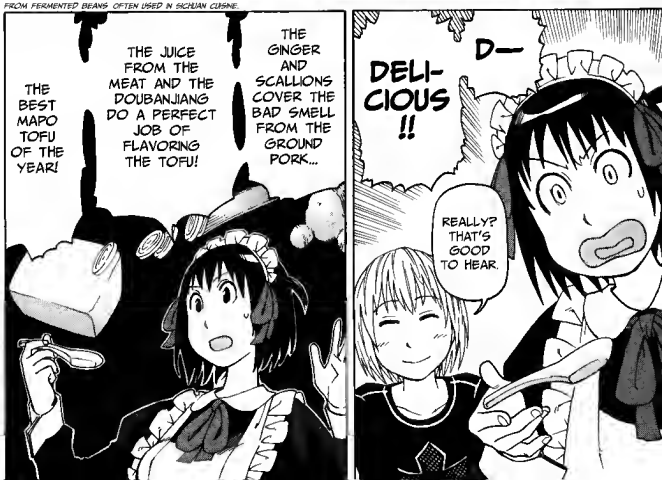
BACK TO DOING HOME-WORK?
.....

SLAM
WHOA! DON'T BARGE IN LIKE THAT!
KON-SEN-PAI!
河井荘
USE THIS TOFU ...
...TO COOK SOME-THING!!
HUH? WHY? THAT'S A PAIN.
...I'VE GOT SCALLIONS AND GINGER... CAN I MAKE SOMETHING COLD?
MAKE SOME-THING THAT INVOLVES BOILING AND COOKING.
THERE'S SOME GROUND PORK IN THE FREEZ-ER.
I GUESS I CAN MAKE MAPO TOFU.

MAPO TOFU: CHINESE-STYLE DISH OF TOFU AND MEAT IN A SPICY BEAN-BASED SAUCE



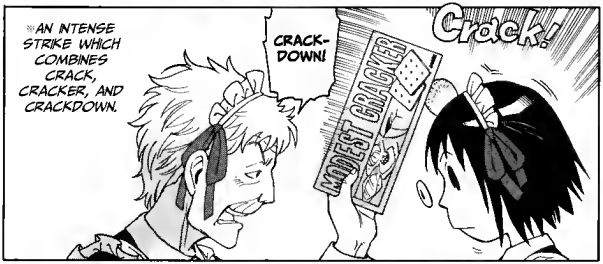
DOUBANJIANG: A SALTY, SOMETIMES SPICY PASTE MADE FROM FERMENTED BEANS OFTEN USED IN SICHUAN CUISINE

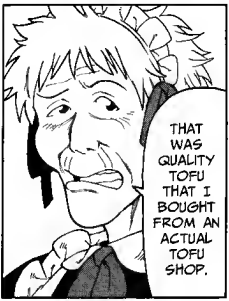

THE BEST MAPO TOFU OF THE YEAR!
THE JUICE FROM THE MEAT AND THE DOUBANJIANG DO A PERFECT JOB OF FLAVORING THE TOFU!
THE GINGER AND SCALLIONS COVER THE BAD SMELL FROM THE GROUND PORK...
D—
DELI-CIOUS!!
REALLY? THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

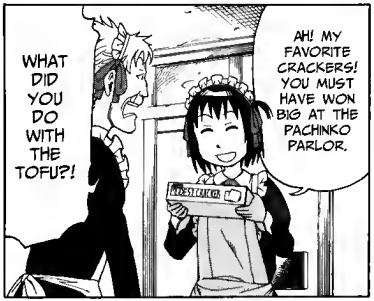
キッ GLARE
I LOST ON MY FIRST TRY...
HEY.
TELL ME WHAT THIS GAME IS.
PERFECT PITCH!
PERFECT LOOKS!
PER-FECT REFLEX-ES!
AND MAPO!
HOW BLESSED CAN ONE PERSON BE?!
I SEE!
YOU PAID A BIG PRICE!!
HA HA HA!
FLAT ペたーん

I'M ASHAMED TO SAY THAT I HAVE RETURNED DEFEATED

SHE'S SO QUICK ...
TAGGED
ヨロ
ヨロ


AN INTENSE STRIKE WHICH COMBINES CRACK, CRACKER, AND CRACKDOWN.
CRACK-DOWN!
Crack!
MODEST CRACKER


THAT WAS QUALITY TOFU THAT I BOUGHT FROM AN ACTUAL TOFU SHOP.


WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE TOFU?!
AH! MY FAVORITE CRACKERS! YOU MUST HAVE WON BIG AT THE PACHINKO PARLOR.
MODEST CRACKER

AND TA-TSUN TOFU WAS ALSO GOOD ...
THE MAPO TOFU WAS GOOD BECAUSE IT WAS MADE FROM GOOD TOFU...
I GET IT!
MODEST CRACKER
YOU'RE CALLING IT "TA-TSUN TOFU"... ANYWAY, I BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE FORGETTING SOMETHING.
...BECAUSE IT WAS MADE FROM GOOD TOFU...
PH-PHOOEY! SHE'S RIGHT!!
TA-TSUN TOFU WAS MADE FROM YOUR MAID BOWL.

CHAPTER 27 / END

All Japan Gyunist Association

ALL JAPAN MILKER ASSOCIATION

The 2nd Milker Conference

- A compilation of Milkits submitted from all across the country

Comrades! I have returned with a brand-new logo! This time, I have a list of Milkits that were submitted by Milkers across the nation!! Give them a try! ...But be responsible.

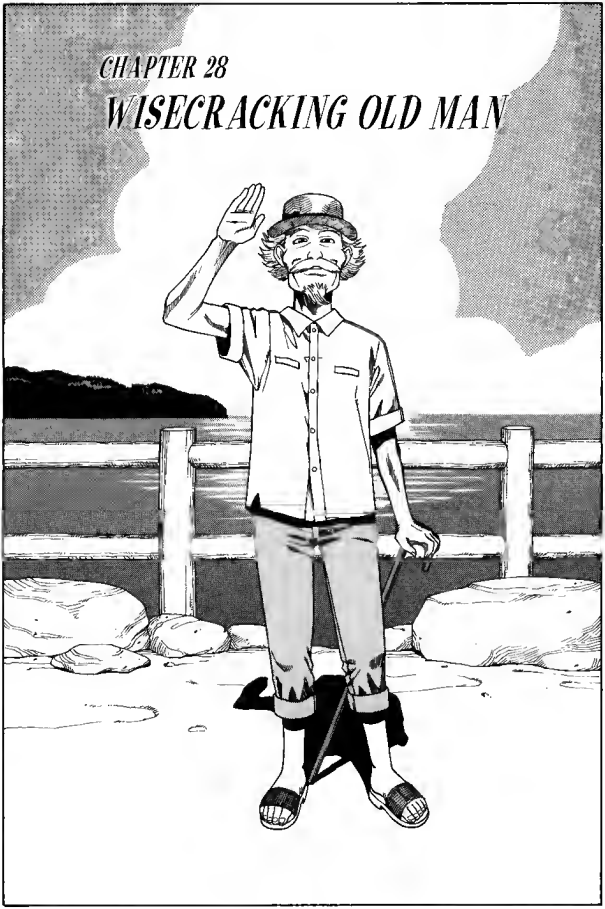
START

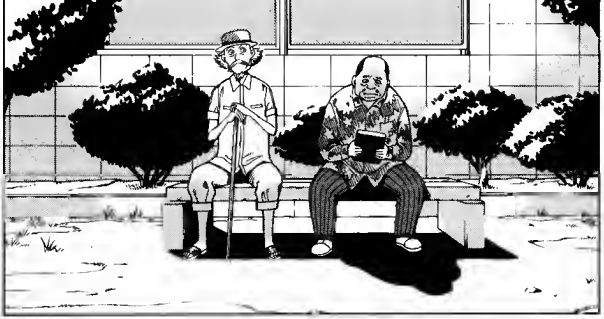
- Unaju — SAEBA RYO-SAN
- Corndog — SHIMURA SATOSHI-SAN
- Dorayaki — CONTRIBUTOR: MORRIE-SAN
- Curry on rice — CHOCHO-SAN, KORI-SAN, CHIBA YUJI-SAN, AND MANY MORE
- Croquette Bun — EMMA-SAN
- Baked Yam — KAWAHARA-SAN, SAKANA-SAN
- Cheese French Bread — KAZUMI-SAN
- Miso Ramen — SAWABE WATARU-SAN
- Takikomi gohan — HWA-SAN
- Shaved ice — SEBUJIMA-SAN
- Inari sushi — LEE-SAN
- Dried squid — YOSHIKAWA HIROSHI-SAN, AMAZU YUSA-SAN
- Ginger pork — YUZUKI TAMAKI-SAN, TANIMOTO-SAN
- Roast Beef — WATSON SASASKI-SAN
- Takuan — IMASU-SENSEI-SAN, OHASHIN-SAN
- Tomato — QKO-SAN
- Mint gum — MACKEY-SAN
- Squid ink pasta — TRIANGLEHEAD-SAN
- Gari — HARU-SAN

Your mileage may vary. I believe that personal preference plays an increasingly large role as you go down the list. My research has also shown that the type of milk is a significant factor when comparing Milkits. There is so much for us to learn about milk.

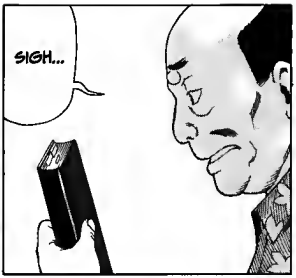
THE INFORMATION ON THIS PAGE WAS GATHERED ON THE AUTHOR'S SITE "OKAN NO IE 3". A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SENT IN SUBMISSIONS.

FOOD NOTES: DORAYAKI: A SMALL PANCAKE FOLDED IN HALF WITH RED BEAN FILLING. UNAJU: BROILED EEL OVER RICE. CROQUETTE BUN: BREAD WITH FRIED POTATO-CHICKEN ROLL INSIDE. NORI SUSHI: SUSHI RICE INSIDE A FRIED TOFU WRAPPER. TAKIKOMI GOHAN: SEASONED RICE MIXED WITH VARIOUS VEGETABLES AND MEAT. MISO RAMEN: RAMEN IN A THICK, MISO-BASED BROTH. TAKUAN: JAPANESE PICKLE MADE FROM DAIKON RADISH. GARI: PICKLED GINGER, OFTEN SERVED WITH SUSHI.


CHAPTER 28
WISECRACKING OLD MAN



IS THAT YOUR LED-GER?


SIGH...

IT WAS A LIQUOR STORE BEFORE YOU TURNED IT INTO A DOLLAR STORE, AND A FUTON STORE BEFORE THAT.
YOUR STORE HAS NEVER STOOD OUT.

YOU'RE NOT MAKING MUCH MONEY.

サッ
BRUSH
サッ
BRUSH
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY HAIR!!
SLIP
スチャ
YOU IGNORING ME?
.....
.....
NATURALLY.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR TAIL?
SEEMS LIKE IT.
SO YOU CAN *SEE* ME?
I DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHERE YOU LOST IT, BUT I'M SURE YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT.

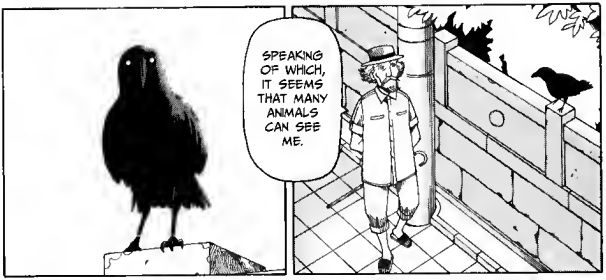
YOU MUST CARRY ON MY DREAM...
ZENJI-SAN!
HANG IN THERE, ZENJI-SAN!
ZENJI-SAN!
WHAT? COM-MUTE?!
COMMU...
MAKE SURE EVERYONE CONTINUES TO COM...
YES, THAT'S IT...
CONSUME? DO YOU MEAN "COMMUNI-CATE"?!
COMMUNI...
COM-MUNE...?

AH...
I DIED...
THAT WAS A BLUNDER. I WASN'T ABLE TO SAY THE WORD "COMMUNICATE."
A SLIP OF THE TONGUE WITH MY LAST BREATH...
STORY OF MY LIFE.
I GUESS I DON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS.
...WELL.

FLASH
ビカ
HERE THEY COME FOR ME...
HUH?
SOMEONE ELSE, HUH?
FLIT
フッ

WHOA!
OH...
NOBODY'S COMING...
...TO PICK ME UP?!
I'M NOT SURE WHAT WENT WRONG...
...BUT I'VE BEEN WANDERING AROUND DOWN HERE FOR OVER TEN YEARS.
CRAZY, YEAH? I'VE ALSO BEEN THROUGH A LOT.

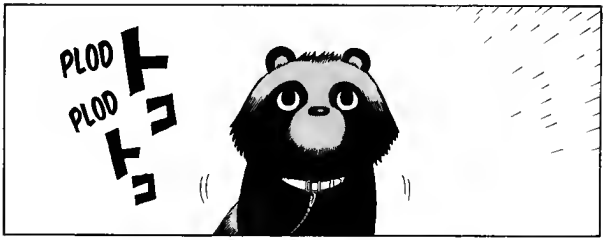
YOU'RE SUCH A FICKLE CAT!!
COME ON
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO RUN OFF?!
THERE YOU ARE, CANARY!
WELL, GOOD LUCK TO YOU.
AND TURNING YOUR HEAD...?
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING OVER THERE?
YES, I'M A DAMN GHOST!!
DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU CAN SEE GHOSTS.
HEY, THAT'S KIND OF CREEPY.

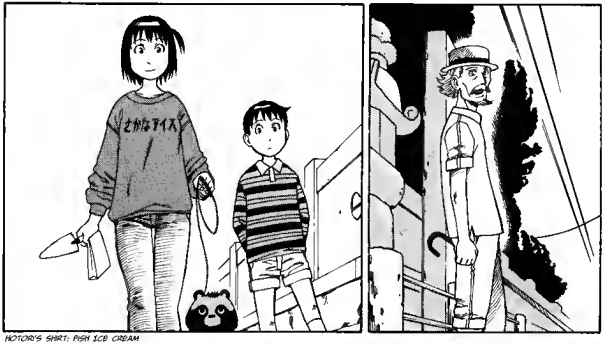

SPEAKING OF WHICH, IT SEEMS THAT MANY ANIMALS CAN SEE ME.

WAVE
WAVE
BUT NOT A SINGLE HUMAN HAS NOTICED ME AROUND.

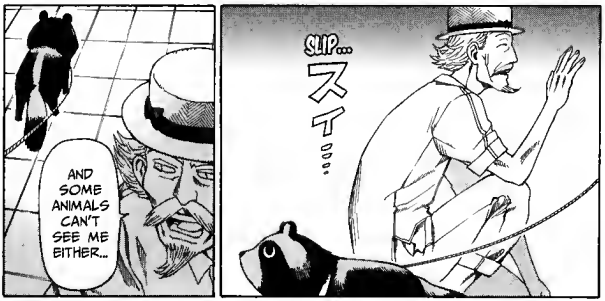
GRR...
BARK!

SLIDE
NOT EVEN A SHINTO PRIEST.

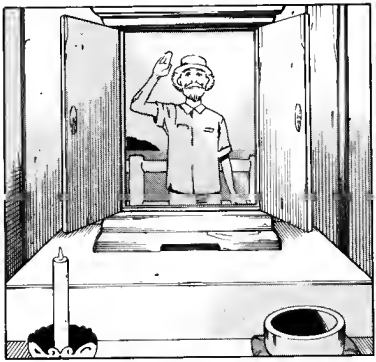


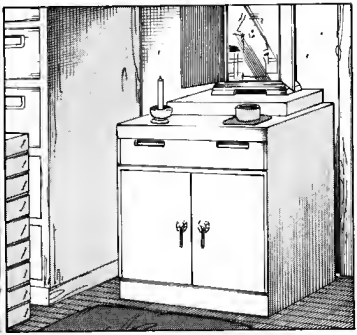


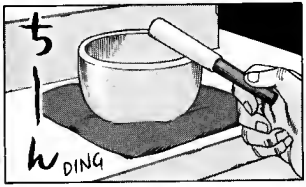
MOTORI'S SHIRT: FISH ICE CREAM

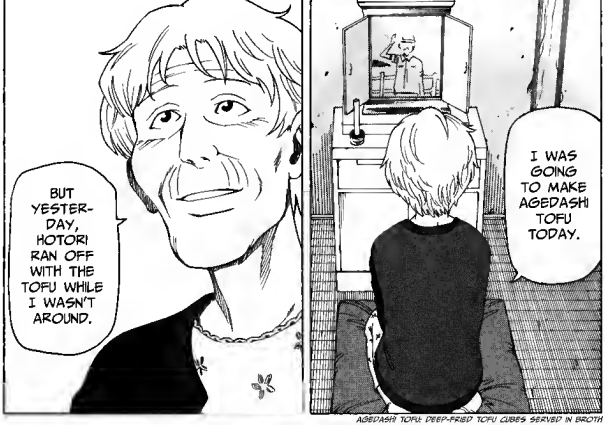


HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...? SHE'S LIKE...
さかなアイス
SO THIS GIRL IS REALLY SPECIAL.
アイス
HEY, WE'RE IN SYNC.
SHE'S LIKE A SPINY LOB-STER!!
WHAT KIND OF META-PHOR IS THAT?!
さかなアイス
NO! DON'T TURN THIS INTO MUSHY TALK!
TAKERU, DO YOU LIKE THIS GIRL?



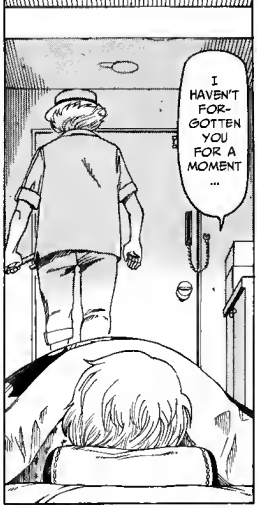


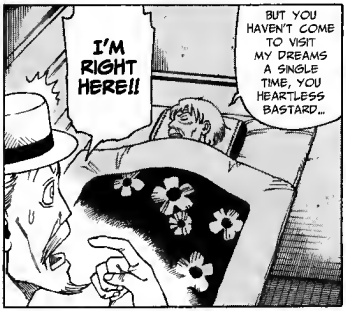

DING



AGEDASHI TOFU: DEEP-FRIED TOFU CUBES SERVED IN BROTH

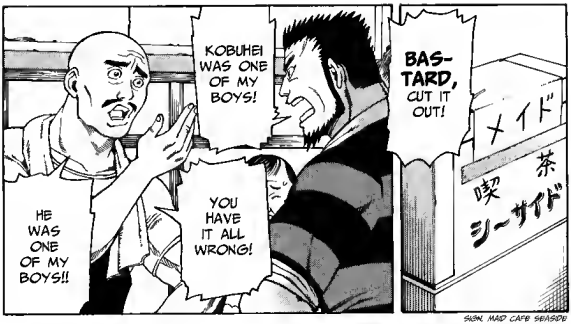
GLANCE キョロ
GLANCE キョロ
UM...
YAWN
WELL, GOOD NIGHT.
THIS SHOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR TODAY. I BELIEVE YOU LIKED BANANAS?
AHHH.. THERE WE GO.
G-GUESS SHE'S NOT THAT DEVOTED...
PRETTY SURE YOU DID... I THINK...


I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU FOR A MOMENT ...

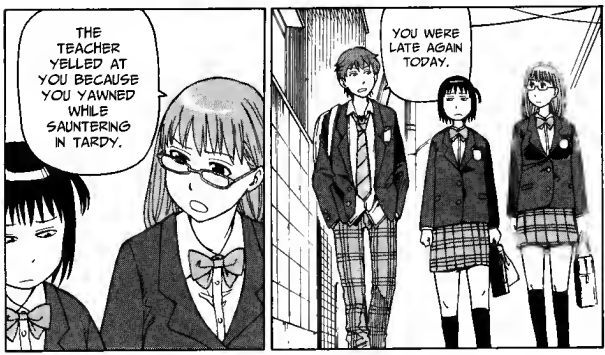

I'M RIGHT HERE!!
BUT YOU HAVEN'T COME TO VISIT MY DREAMS A SINGLE TIME, YOU HEARTLESS BASTARD...

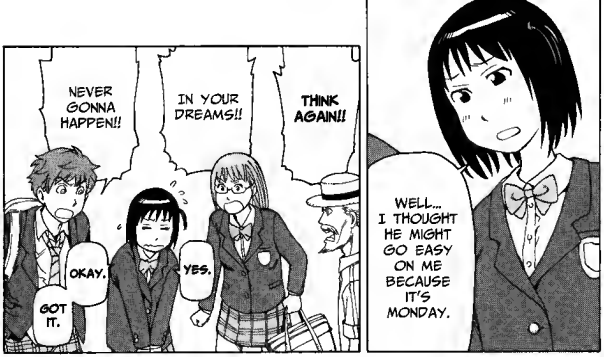
YEAH, EVER SINCE THE DAY I DIED AND MADE A WISECRACK TO THE HEAVENS...
...I'VE BEEN ENJOYING MYSELF... THROUGH THESE ONE-SIDED COMMUNICATIONS.

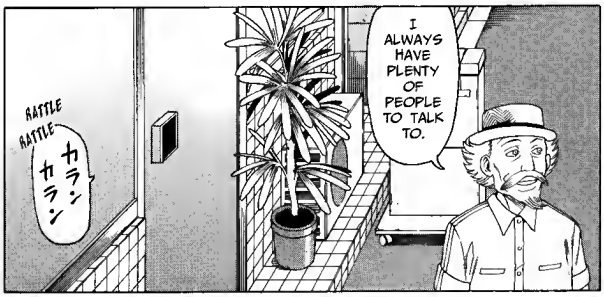
WELL, ENJOY YOURSELF ON THE OTHER SIDE.


KOBUHEI WAS ONE OF MY BOYS!
BAS-TARD, CUT IT OUT!
メイド
喫茶
シーサイド
HE WAS ONE OF MY BOYS!!
YOU HAVE IT ALL WRONG!
SUSHI, MAID CAFE SEASIDE

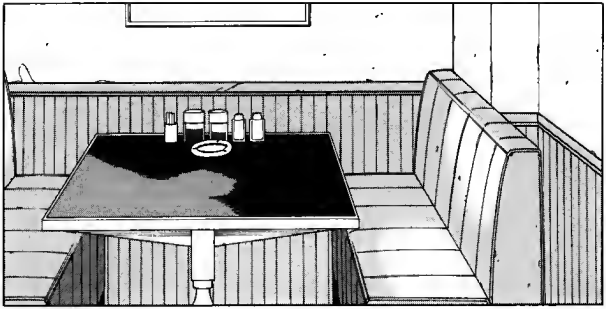
I'M THE ONE WHO GAVE YOU THE INSPIRATION FOR THAT NICKNAME!
BESIDES, I WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE HIM THE NICKNAME KOBUHEI!!
IT'S A LOSE-LOSE SITUATION FOR YOU.


THE TEACHER YELLED AT YOU BECAUSE YOU YAWNED WHILE SAUNTERING IN TARDY.
YOU WERE LATE AGAIN TODAY.

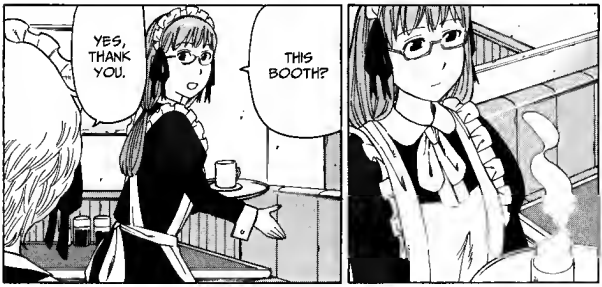

NEVER GONNA HAPPEN!!
IN YOUR DREAMS!!
THINK AGAIN!!
OKAY. GOT IT.
YES.
WELL... I THOUGHT HE MIGHT GO EASY ON ME BECAUSE IT'S MONDAY.


RATTLE RATTLE
カラン カラン
I ALWAYS HAVE PLENTY OF PEOPLE TO TALK TO.

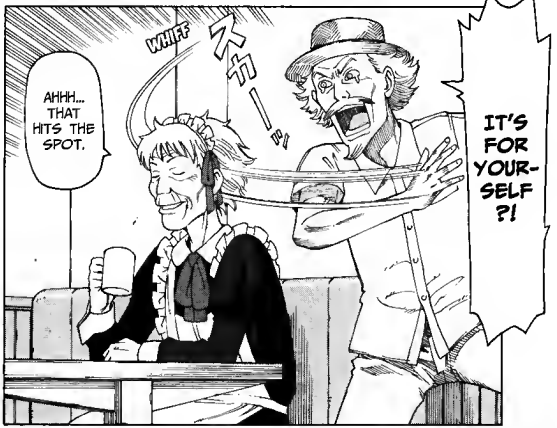
HEY, YOU'RE GOING TO GET IN TROUBLE WITH THAT BLOND GIRL AGAIN!
MEOOW



TOSHIKO-CHAN.
YES?
COULD YOU TAKE A CUP OF COFFEE TO THE BOOTH IN THE BACK?


THIS BOOTH?
YES, THANK YOU.

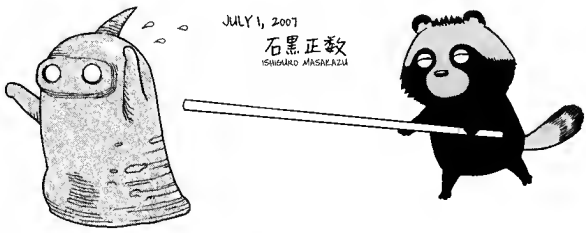
YOU CAN SEE ME...!
UKI...



CHAPTER 28 / END

AFTERWORD

I HAVE A COUSIN NAMED KO-TAN WHO'S TWO YEARS OLDER THAN ME.
WE USED TO PLAY TOGETHER WHEN WE WERE KIDS.
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, KO-TAN WAS A HERO TO ME, AND HE WAS THE ONE WHO FIRST INTRODUCED ME TO MANGA.
HE STARTED THE KO-TAN DETECTIVE SQUAD. HE TAUGHT ME HOW FUN IT WAS TO BE A DETECTIVE.
WHEN HUMANS ARE BORN, THEIR ONLY DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTIC IS THEIR FACE.
NO IDIOSYNCRATIC SPEECH PATTERNS OR SPECIAL ATTACKS.
I BELIEVE THAT YOUR PERSONALITY IS INFLUENCED BY ACTIVITES SUCH AS LEARNING FROM YOUR PARENTS, PLAYING WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND SIBLINGS, AND GOING TO SCHOOL.
IN OTHER WORDS, ARASHIYAMA HOTORI WOULD HAVE BEEN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT GIRL IF SHE HADN'T BEEN BORN IN THIS SHOPPING DISTRICT.



JULY 1, 2007
石黒正数
ISHIGURO MASAKAZU

SPECIAL THANKS

ASSISTANT TSUNAMINO YUU
HELPER ARI